

1902 June Dec.  
Journal -

FROM  
WILLIAM BREWSTER,  
145 BRATTLE ST.,  
CAMBRIDGE, - MASS.

1902.

June 1

Forenoon brilliantly clear and rather warm. Increasing cloudiness in afternoon. Strong S.W. wind all day.

I came to Concord late yesterday afternoon to ~~stop~~ at the cabin until to-morrow. Roland Hayward spent last night and most of to-day with me. We walked to Holden's Hill last evening. This forenoon we went to the farm by way of Davis's Hill, Birch Island and Bonner's wood road returning via Birch Hill Davis's Swamp and Pine Ridge. Birds were singing freely all day and we noted a great many of most of the species which pass the summer here. But all the north-bound migrants seem to have departed.

Red-eyed Vireos are apparently scarce; we heard only two or three during our long tramp. There also but few Cat-birds even along the river and the only Redstarts we noted was one singing near the cabin and another in the elms about the house at the farm. The Crested Flycatcher was plentiful in the orchard and there were as many Chats, Chipping, Robins etc. there as usual. The Hummingbirds' nest in the elm looked all right but there was no bird on it. We saw one, however, darting away from a flower bed in the garden. The young Phoebe has left the nest under the eaves in the old barn and their father was in full song again. The nest in the new barn cellar ~~still~~ had the four cold eggs & is evidently deserted. The young in the nest in the barn house that at Davis's there are  $2/3$  grown & pretty feathered. A Phoebe was sitting on four eggs in a nest in the barn house across the river yesterday afternoon.

1902.

June 1  
(No 2)

As we approached the canoe landing at Ball's Hill yesterday afternoon we heard, borne on the fresh east wind a peculiar loud, harsh cry wholly new to me. Rowing down river a short distance we located the sound in an extensive bed of tall, flooded grass (chiefly "*Sagittaria*") on the bank of the river near the cluster of willows and white maples above Ford Island. It ceased when we got near the spot but was resumed soon after we left it. At 10.15 P.M. I heard precisely the same cry issuing from the meadows opposite Ball's Hill near the thicket of Button Bushes which Least Bitterns sometimes frequent. I listened to it for nearly half an hour and could hear it coming at short intervals from the same direction up to the time I went to sleep (about 11.15 P.M.).

At 7 A.M. this morning I went to Hollier's meadow and ~~found~~ the same sound coming from the same spot where it was heard yesterday P.M. and between 5.30 and 6 o'clock this afternoon the creature was again calling almost continually but when I visited the meadow at 6.30 P.M. occupied with red-bellied birds it had become silent. I walked all over the place but nothing was heard any thing unusual. The water proved to be from six to ten inches deep among the tall grass but there were a few mounds or tussocks which rose above it.

I noted the cry carefully on the spot both last night and this morning. On the former occasion (i.e. when heard across the river after 10 P.M.) it was repeated every two to four seconds as long as I was listening but this morning & afternoon it would be given

Another  
"ornithological  
mystery".



1902.

June 7  
(no 3)

five or six times at about these intervals when the  
another would remain silent for a minute or more  
before resuming it again. It usually began with a  
short note very like the cac of Leucolus (or as Roland  
and Gilbert thought like that of a Red-wing), which  
was immediately followed by a harsh, vibrating ki-ar-  
ar-r-r-r-r or ā-ā-ā-ā-ā also suggestive of  
one of the harsh cries of the Cow Blackbird - the  
"hully", scolding one which this Blackbird gives oftentimes  
when its nesting haunts are invaded. There was no  
close similarity in respect to this part of the cry, however,  
but only as I have said a suggestion of resemblance.  
The voice was much louder than that of any Blackbird  
and also more penetrating. The cry lasted from  $\frac{1}{2}$   
to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a second (timed with a stop watch) and I  
noted the following variations: -

Ket - Ket - ker - ā-ā-ā-ā-ā (the a sounded as ah)

" " ā-ā-ā-ā-ā " " " " "

Ki - ā-ā-ā-ā-ā " " " " "

Ar - ā-ā-ā-ā-ā " " " " "

At distances within forty yards the Ket was distinctly  
as rendered above, from forty to sixty yards it  
sounded more like cet, beyond the latter distance like  
the cac of a Blackbird as already noted.

The whole call when heard at forty or fifty yards  
might be roughly rendered as cet-cet-cā-dah-r-r-  
r-r-r suggesting, indeed, the cry of a hen who has just  
laid an egg, with the terminal "cet" consisted of the hen omitted.

There can be little doubt that the author of these strange  
cries was a bird, probably a Rail or Gallinule of some kind.  
I also believe that I heard two different individuals yesterday.

Austen  
"ornithological  
mystery"

1902.

June 1  
(no 4)

Two Virginia Rails in the meadows opposite Ball's Hill called kic-lee, kic-lee, kic-lee etc. without the slightest cessation last night from 10.20 to 11.15 when I went to sleep. I have ~~never~~<sup>before</sup> known them to utter this cry (= of course to the Cattle Owl sounding as I have written it, perhaps owing to the distance or to the deadening effects of a strong wind blowing at the time) so ceaselessly and persistently.

There were three Bitterns jumping last evening, one near the head of Great Meadows, ~~another~~ near its middle, the third opposite Ball's Hill.

I found rather old deer tracks yesterday on the roadway that crosses the Barrett Meadows to Holden's Hill and apparently perfectly fresh ones this morning along the border of the path from the stone house shed to the edge of the bog just within fifty feet of Gilders' Cabin at Ball's Hill where the animal had evidently turned back and retraced his steps to Holden's meadow afterwards crossing the creek plantation beyond the swamp. Both sets of tracks were similar and, I should say, those of doe born a year ago this spring. They looked larger, however, than those I saw on & near the farm last March.

A Deer within 50 feet of the cabin

There are apparently no Carolina Rails breeding in the river meadows here this year. I have heard them only twice - two birds on the evening of May 1<sup>st</sup>, one on that of the 11<sup>th</sup>.

1902.

June 2

Clear and warm with fresh W. wind.

Crossing the river at about 9 a.m. I landed at the stone boat house and was walking rapidly through the swampy woods immediately behind it when my attention was attracted by a variety of odd notes which evidently came from the top of a leafy oak that overhung the cart path some thirty yards ahead. First there would be a short, full whistle, next a gurgling sound as of water escaping from the neck of a bottle, next a succession of chucks or of short choking or gasping cries, finally one or more rich, liquid & really musical notes. These sounds were given in a connected series but they were usually separated by intervals of a second or two and then another would frequently cease uttering them for a minute or more and then begin again. I had about come to the conclusion that I was listening to the voice of an escaped Parrot when a ragged old Crow with two or three primaries missing from each wing started from the oak and flew off over Ansel's pasture. I remember hearing (as well as seeing) a Blue Jay indulge in a closely similar performance near the cabin a year or two ago.

A musical  
Crow

I went to Concord by the electric cars this morning & round Mr. & Mrs. John E. Hooper down river from Nashotuck Bridge to Ball's Hill. We saw very few Robelinks, certainly not more than three or four in all.

There is an immense colony of Sand Swallows in a bank opposite the Catholic Cemetery on the Redford Road. Certainly more than 100 pairs to judge by the number of holes.

Dublin, N.H.

1902.

June 8

Morning cloudy and rather sultry with a violent shower just before noon. Afternoon cloudy clearing on sunset with a strong, cold north-west wind. It seemed and indeed felt like an October evening. My hands were actually cold "finger cold" as Thoreau called it.

John E. Hoyer and I went to Dublin from Concord yesterday afternoon to spend to-day (Sunday) with Albert H. Hoyer who had invited us for the express purpose of seeing a *Picea canadensis* nest which he and his son, Gerald, had found in the wooded basin at the northern base of Mt. Monadnock on May 18<sup>th</sup>. We visited this morning (or rather forenoon). Passing through a hilly pasture and thence following a wood road bordered by dense young spruces we finally came to an extensive tract (hundreds of acres certainly) of primitive forest composed chiefly of hemlocks, red spruces, birches, barberries and sugar maples. Most of the hemlocks were of the very largest size while some of the spruces and yellow birches quite equaled the finest specimens on Baldpate. Leaving the path and descending a slight slope we came to a brook whose course was mainly shaded by mountain maples in full blossom. On its further bank stood a yellow birch tree about seventy feet in height and perhaps 2 1/2 feet in diameter near the base, far advanced in decay yet still covered from top to bottom with the rough grayish bark characteristic of large trees of this species and usually persisting after death until they fall or are blown down by a high wind. All the branches had long since disappeared but there

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was one short lateral from a yard or two from the top of the stub and directly beneath this, on the north side of the tree, was the entrance hole to the Woodpecker's nest. It looked much larger than that of a Flicker's and, in fact, of a size appropriate to that of its owner. The edges showed freshly chiseled wood and the ground beneath the tree was thickly strewn with chips which had evidently been made the previous season. On the side towards the brook there was a small opening filled with mountain maples and a few trees of thirty to forty feet in height but the hundreds of oaks and beeches immediately beyond the stub rose above it and threw out branches which pressed closely half around it forming a dark background of solid foliage. The nest was about eight feet above the ground.

When we first reached the place at about 10.30 A.M. both Woodpeckers were away from home but half an hour later the ♂ appeared among the trees immediately behind us announcing his arrival by a single outburst of loud, cockling clatter. He spent fully fifteen minutes commencing one ambuscade which was at the foot of a big spruce. During all this time he was within thirty yards or less & perfectly silent. He would occasionally swing gracefully from one trunk to the next and then remain clinging for several minutes to the stem of a tree craning his neck to get a better view of us and occasionally bobbing his whole head, neck & body from his leg joints. At length he flew into a maple on the opening nearly over us & remained hidden



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June 8

(no 3)

among its foliage for about ten minutes every hour and these uttering a low, guttural yep-yep (always two syllables only) which I do not remember ever hearing before.

At the end of the period last mentioned the ♀ came flying (or rather sailing) into the tree and alighted a yard or two above her mate. Half a minute later she flew to the stick and alighted directly beneath the hole, and fed the young. She then flew off through the trees returning after an absence of fifteen or twenty minutes and alighting at the top of the stick where she hopped down backwards keeping behind the trunk until she reached the level of the hole where she scrambled around to it and again fed the young. They were also fed soon afterwards by the ♂ parent who had likewise been absent for a short time.

We witnessed the operation of feeding to the best possible advantage, using our glasses freely. When one of the old birds reached the hole (never before) the young set up a loud clamor calling ā-ā-ā-ā-ā (or ch-ch-ch-ch-ch) in shrill, rasping (but not hissing) tones. The next instant their heads would appear at the entrance each mouth opened to its widest extent and vociferating for food. The parent bird fed them in turn, by regurgitation, thrusting its bill deep into the mouth of the young bird and pumping in the food by several quick forward movements of the head, slower and less convulsive, however, than those of the parent T'beek. While thus engaged the old bird clung to the trunk just below the hole in a firm yet graceful attitude. The thrusts were all directly forward (not downward) the heads & bills of both the parent & the offspring being held nearly horizontal. There were at least two and we thought three young. They appeared to

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(No 4)

be fully grown and feathered and their scarlet crests were scarcely less full and brilliant than those of their parents. Save when the latter were at or very near the nest the young remained hidden within its inner recesses and profoundly silent. As the old birds made no vocal sounds when approaching or after reaching the hole we concluded that the young must have been apprised of their arrival by hearing the rattles of their claws on the outer surface of the stick. They evidently went considerable distances through the surrounding woods in quest of food and brought it in a macerated condition in their gullets for we could see nothing whatever in their bills.

I was impressed on this occasion - as I have been many times before - by the striking beauty of the Piloted Woodpecker when at large in its native forests. It is, indeed, a truly superb creature, of bold and dignified yet ever graceful bearing, its every pose and movement stamped with the proud self-reliance and superabundant energy and virility which are evidently among its chief characteristics. It is a true child of the forest, shunning man and his works and absolutely <sup>unwilling</sup> unable or, to adapt itself to the changed conditions which preceded the felling of the primitive woods in which it makes its home. In their deepest shade its brilliant scarlet crest glows like a living coal, in the sunlight gleams and shimmers like floss silk. The bird when living looks larger than it really is, and on wing may be easily mistaken for a Crow although its wing beats more markedly <sup>ponderous</sup> than of the Blue Jay. This, of course, can be said only of the level flight performed when the bird is crossing a wide opening or on its way well above the tree tops to some distant point. When moving among the trees it either "gallops" like most Woodpeckers or swings from trunk to trunk on long, graceful loops without flapping at all.

1902.

June 8  
(no 5)

The Pileated Woodpeckers were by no means the only birds which had chosen the pretty little mountain glen above described as their summer home. There were also Black-burnian, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, and Canadian Warblers, Oven-birds, Red-eyed Vireos, a Wood Pewee and an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Chipping Partridge, and still others that I cannot now recall, in the undergrowth or the tops close about one place of concealment at the base of a giant spruce. But most interesting and impressive of all the sounds that came to our ears from the surrounding forest was the hooting of a pair of Barred Owls. Soon after reaching the glen I clapped my hollowed hands together a number of times in quick succession and in such a manner as to produce a sound not unlike that of a woodpecker pecking on a rotten tree trunk. By this means I have often called a Pileated Woodpecker from a considerable distance but in the present instance the result was unexpected for instead of one of the woodpeckers a Barred Owl came flopping through the woods straight towards us, alighting in a large yellow birch some thirty yards away where it remained for ten or fifteen minutes, hooting at short intervals. At the time we all supposed that its appearance was due to mere coincidence but after it had flown away I called it back again three successive times by the same novel means. On each of these subsequent occasions it hooted for fully as long a period as during its first visit being regularly answered by its mate from a distant point in the valley below. ~~How~~ Its voice rang and echoed through the deep, moss-grown woods thrilling and delighting my senses as did no other sounds heard on this occasion. Abbott Thayer found a young bird which he thought belonged to this pair of Owls on the ground near a big hollow maple a week or two ago. It was then nearly fully grown.



Lancaster, Mass.

1902.

June 10

Cloudy with strong W. wind and light rain in P.M.

Off for the day with John E. Thayer and his assistant Albert Harriman, taking the road to the Parry Farm.

We stopped first at the grove of planted white pines in front of the abandoned school house to look at a Vireo's nest which John Thayer found several days ago and which he had taken to be a Red-eye's. It was about ten feet from the ground at the extremity of a long, densely-feathered pine branch which extended out over a cart path just where the latter entered the grove from the public road. The nest was so perfectly concealed by the mass of pine foliage which surrounded it that it could be seen only from directly beneath. To our surprise it proved to belong to a Solitary Vireo although at the occasion of Mr. Thayer's first visit a male Red-eye was the only Vireo singing in the grove. The ♀ Solitary, however, was sitting on her three fresh eggs and as she did not leave the nest until we pushed down the branch nearly to a level with our heads as we stood up in the wagon we identified her beyond question. After we had left the nest we heard the ♂ Solitary singing in down oak scrub on the other side of the road.

Later in the day I found a second Solitary Vireo's nest in the old white pine forest beyond the Parry Farm. It was in the top of a spicelike, numerous-branched but rather thin-foliated Viburnum lentago which grew in a partial opening ~~near~~ which stretched the long, lateral branches of several large pines. During our last visit (on June 3) to these woods I had heard the ♂ Solitary singing within



1902.

June 10  
(No 2)

a few yards of the edge of this clearing and had looked in vain for the nest above its edges but not in the internum where it must have been at the time for the eggs were evidently on the point of hatching to-day. They were four in number and indistinguishable from small eggs of the Red-eye having none of the usual blot, handsome light brown or reddish markings of the Solitary but only a few minute black or blackish spots about the larger ends. The nest, also, lacked the usual profusion and artistic exterior decorations of spiders' cocoons, bird's nests etc. and looked for all the world like a dilapidated Red-eye's of originally inferior construction. But a ♀ Solitary was certainly occupying it and she proved to be one of the tamest & most trustful birds that I have met with in a long experience. The nest was suspended about 6 feet above the ground and when we there had gathered directly beneath it the bird began peering at us over its edges rolling her head from side to side after the manner of most Vireos. We did the same when I reached up my arm and touched the end of her tail. I then drew down the branch until the nest was level with my face and stroked the sitting bird's back. Next I stroked her head, at first gently, then heavily, bearing down with almost the whole weight of my hand. Finally I scratched her head and neck with my finger nail. This she seemed to positively enjoy although when I became a trifle rough she would evade my finger for a moment or two by dodging her head from side to side. Hoping to repeat some of the experiences of Mr. Loring & Mr. Hoffmann with sitting vireos I next procured some ants eggs and offered them to this bird. She extended her bill and apparently tasted one of them but refused to eat it. Then,

1902.

June 10

(no 3)

at length, I tried to make her leave the nest in order that we might examine its contents. I found this no easy matter without resorting to actual violence. But I finally got my finger under her throat and pressing steadily upward induced her to leave the eggs. In doing so she preened for a moment on the edge of the nest before flying up into a pine where she berated us with the scolding chatter used by this species & *V. flaviceps* when anxious about their eggs or young. We happened to have a Lin. Screech Owl with us which we left perched on a log almost directly under the nest hole. The Vireo did not seem to notice it for she returned quickly to the nest as soon as we had withdrawn a short distance. When we visited her again an hour later she left the nest before we quite got to it and began chattering as before, calling up the male on this second occasion.

Besides the two pairs of Solitary Vireos just mentioned John Hoyer has met with a third pair breeding in Danvers this season—in the Parkers' woods. Their first nest, which was nearly finished on May, was suspended <sup>about five above the ground</sup> from the lateral branch of a small, dead and perfectly leafless white pine sapling which stood among some gray birches near the edge of a swamp. This nest (which I examined on June 5<sup>th</sup>) was either deserted by the birds immediately after Mr. Hoyer's first visit or dropped of its eggs by the Jays before he came to it a second time. The Vireos built a second nest in a hemlock 10 feet above the ground & fully 100 yards from the site of the first nest. Mr. Harriman found this second nest, on June 2<sup>nd</sup> I believe. Visiting it again on June 4<sup>th</sup> he found the pair of Vireos scolding excitedly and dealing about the head of a Blue Jay who was perched within a foot of the nest. It contained 2 eggs & the shells of a third egg on the ground beneath. A nest of *D. crinitus* in a neighboring hemlock had also, been just robbed by the Jay

1902.

June 10  
(no 4)

After finding the first Vireo's nest this morning in close vicinity to the Pony Farm and began searching the meadows for Henslow's Sparrows' nests. On the further (eastern) side of the brook in a narrow strip of moist, Sphagnum-carpeted ground broken by little hillsides covered with low blueberry bushes, masses of various kinds and tufts of short wing grass, we flushed a ♀ Henslow's Sparrow from a spot where we have found her five or six times before this season. As usual she rose literally from under foot but although we searched the ground inch by inch and tore up most of the grass & bushes we could find nothing. The bird, all the while, showed unmistakable anxiety chirping almost incessantly among some alders in which she had taken refuge. We finally intervened thirty or forty yards & watched her. After a few minutes she flew out into the meadow and alighted in a small bush where the male joined her for a moment & then went back to his singing station about forty yards off on the other side of the brook. Soon after this the ♀ changed her position to a tall weed stalk where she perched for at least ten minutes evidently watching us closely (we were sitting on a mound within vision & yet not over 30 yards from her). She then flew to the ground alighting within a yard of the place where we have started her so many times before and at once disappeared. We waited down ten or fifteen minutes longer and then advanced rather quickly towards the spot where we had seen the bird alight, spreading out at first so as to finally converge from their different directions on the spot where we had seen the bird alight. Hensman, who was on the extreme right, flushed her, not in the best when we had expected to find her but fully 25 feet away and from a hard, dry bank covered with short, dense grassy tufts.

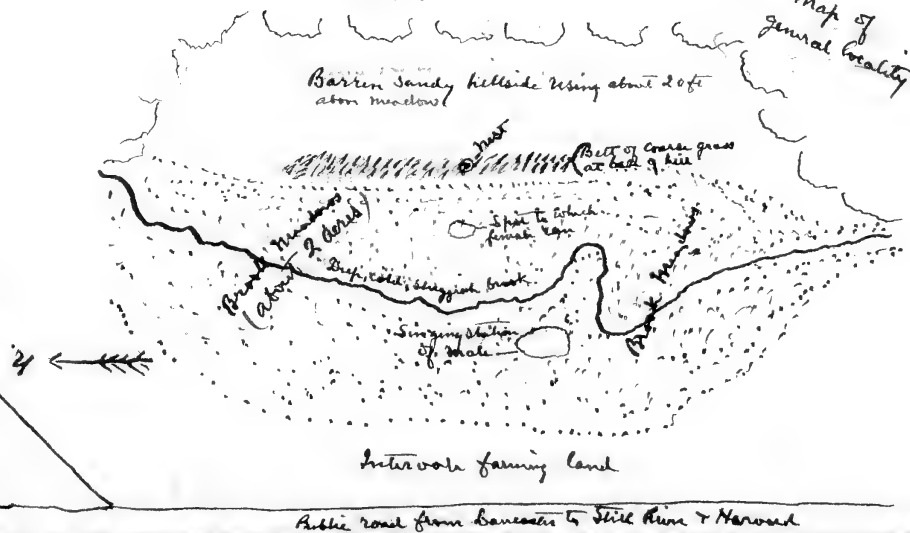
1902.

June 10

(nos)

We all saw her the instant she took flight and marked the spot where she issued within a foot or less. but there was no nest there and the bank seemed to indicate a place for one that Thayer passed along its base looking only very superficially while I followed him taking scarcely more pains. Harriman, however, lingered behind parting the grass with his hands & going over the ground very thoroughly. Presently he shouted "here it is" and a moment later all three of us were fastening our eyes on the treasure we had sought so hard and long to find - a House Sparrow's nest with its complement of four eggs which looked perfectly fresh although, on blowing them afterwards, Mr. Thayer ascertained that they would have hatched in two or three days the embryos being of large size and covered with fine feathers. Before any one of us had touched either the nest or its contents I seated myself on the ground beside it and jotted down the notes from which I now compile the following description:-

Woods



Leicester, Mass

1902.

June 10

(No 6)

The Henslow's Sparrow's nest was some eight or ten feet from the edge of the meadow and fully three feet above it on a steeply-sloping bank which formed the base of a barren sandy hillside where the only vegetation consisted of trailing blackberry vines (*Rubus hirsutus*), cinque-foil (*Potentilla canadensis*) and a few small, scattered gray birches. Extending along the foot of the bank for a distance of fifty or sixty feet, nourished either by a richer soil than that which prevailed higher up or by moisture drawn from the meadow, was a straight narrow (about two yards in width) belt of a peculiar broad-leaved grass evidently undisturbed

either by cattle or the scythe for the dark green blades of the present season's growth were intermingled with those of former years. Indeed the latter, bleached by the winter's snows to a pale, brownish white, were so numerous and uniformly distributed that at a distance they gave the bank the appearance of a strip of clean, dry sand.

Both old and new blades were of about equal length - from twelve to fourteen inches. ~~One would have said~~ At first glance they appeared to form a rather densely matted bed of vegetation but in reality they stood so erect and were so evenly if not widely spaced that it was only necessary to disarrange them slightly with the hand, or with the sticks that we carried, to see quite down to the ground which was hard and smooth sand for the most part wholly free from any covering save that of the grass just mentioned. On this the Henslow's Sparrow had evidently depended solely for concealment for her nest had no artificial canopy or covering of any kind. Indeed it was not even sunk in the ground

Nest of  
Henslow's  
Sparrow.



Leicester, Mass.

1902.

June 10

(No 7)

but, on the contrary, rested so lightly on its surface that I passed my forefinger directly under the bottom of the nest without using much force or disarranging the structure at all sensibly. Nor was it interwoven with the stems of the surrounding grasses although the grasses closely about and evidently supported it on every side. Before disturbing it in any way I took the following measurements:-

Greatest external diameter across top (i.e. length)	4.70 inches
Greatest " " " " (" width)	3.20 "
Total height from top to base (i.e. the ground)	3.30 "
Depth of egg cup (or interior cavity)	2.10 "
Diameter " " " across top	2.20 "

As these measurements indicate the nest externally was decidedly longer than it was wide but the inner cavity or egg cup was perfectly symmetrical and beautifully rounded. The entire nest was composed of strands of dry, light brown or brownish white grasses most of those which formed the outer walls being coarse and flattened and apparently of the same kind as those which grew immediately about the nest while those used for the lining were delicate rounded strands no thicker than horse-hair and evidently elsewhere than on the bank where the nest was placed.

I have just stated that this nest was not sheltered by any artificial hood or canopy but in addition to the grass blades which rose around and above it two or three leafy sprays of cinquefoil and trailing blackberry extended out just over it from different sides. Nevertheless it would be no misrepresentation of the facts to say that in comparison with the nests of most birds which build on the ground

Nest of  
Henslow's  
Sparrow.

Lowell, Mass.

1902.

June 10

(No. 8)

it was but poorly concealed. Certainly no one with average powers of observation could have failed to see it. As we stood close about it looking down at it from our fall heights (i.e. without stooping) we all agreed that both nest and eggs might have been readily mistaken for those of a Field Sparrow. The nest itself also bore a resemblance to that of a Maryland Yellow-throat especially in respect to the way in which it was built up from the ground among the stems of the grass.

Perhaps the most interesting part of our experience with this nest was that relating to the behavior of the bird. Without going into needless details it may be sufficient to state that putting together what we saw on this and previous occasions (she must have laid all her eggs and begun incubating them before the date (June 3) of our last visit) we have become convinced that it has been her regular practice to leave the nest as soon as she saw (or heard) us enter the meadow and, running like a mouse through the grass to a distance of at least twenty feet or thirty feet, <sup>and</sup> invariably, saw on the last occasion, to our particular spot, to rise under foot and in such a manner as to lead us to suppose that she had flown directly from her eggs. Her return to the nest was not less crafty for, as I have already stated, it must have been accomplished by running back to it under shelter of the grass from the spot where she had alighted and where she evidently wanted us to think the nest was concealed. Then we flushed her the last time she <sup>was too closely pressed</sup> ~~had no time~~ to reach this spot but with infinite cunning she did the next best thing i.e. ran directly towards us ~~and~~ <sup>rising between us & the nest & about 8 feet from the latter.</sup>

Notes of  
Henshaw's  
Sparrows.

Tricks  
practised  
by Henshaw's  
Sparrows to  
prevent  
discovery  
of nests.

1902.

June 10

(No 9)

While perched on the weed stalk in the meadow waiting us this ♀ Lincoln's Sparrow repeatedly uttered a low tee-tee-tee-tee-tee-tee which suggested the father piping of some very young bird. After we had discovered the nest and were standing close about it she began chirping anxiously uttering an exceedingly fine, wavy cheep, cheep, but keeping rather closely concealed all the while among the foliage of some alders that fringed the banks of the brook. We saw the ♂ only once - on the occasion already mentioned when he joined his mate just after her first return to the meadow.

I can think of nothing further to add save that the weed stalk on which the ♀ alighted before flying down to the ground was about sixty feet from the nest.

Mr. Harriman tells us that within the past week he has picked up dead near Mr. Thayer's greenhouse two Yellow Warblers and two Chisps and in the crevice shut near the Bancroft Inn a Warbling and a Yellow-throated Vireo. All of these birds were in good condition and were showed marks of external injury. The Yellow-throated Vireo had evidently been incubating. In both of the Warblers just mentioned spraying trees and shrubs had been carried on extensively just before the birds were found. Mr. Harriman attributes their death to eating caterpillars & other insects which had been poisoned by the sprayed foliage. Of course he has no definite proof that such was the case but if any more are found Mr. Thayer will have their stomachs examined by a competent chemist. The drugs which are chiefly used in spraying by the Bancroft gardeners are "pyrox" & "desferine", Mr. Harriman tells me.

Call notes  
of nesting  
Lincoln's  
Sparrow.

Birds  
poisoned  
by spraying  
foliage.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

June 14

Our garden at Cambridge is literally swarming with birds. Indeed I scarce remember ever seeing so many there before (at least within recent years) as I noted yesterday and to-day. There were more than a dozen Robins (most of them young), several Cedar Birds, two male Yellow Warblers singing and a ♀ feeding young on wing, a pair of Redstarts, a pair of Red eyed Vireos (the ♀ sitting on a nest which contained three eggs on the point of hatching and which was suspended from the end of a drooping branch of one of the silver-leaved poplars in the jungle), a Yellow-throated Vireo (which is new, I think, established on the place as I heard it singing only in the early morning & ~~fast~~ for a short time), a pair of Cat birds, the ♀ sitting on her nest in the shrub the great behind the house, a pair of Chippies feeding their brood of young (reared in a nest in one of the blue spruces on the lawn, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak which has been singing in the garden constantly since May & which doubtless has its nest there, a Yellow-billed and a Black-bellied Cuckoo, one or both of which <sup>are scarce here</sup> is also likely to be nesting on the place. (An Oriole singing)  
Walter Dean tells me that he has winter seen and heard the Yellow-bellies since about the time when they were completing their nest in a dead limb (high up) of one of the large apple trees near the head of the garden. The King bird and Wood Thrush also disappeared after spending several days. There are no Warbling Vireos nor Purple Finches nesting in our neighborhood this year & the only Least Flycatcher I know of is in the garden of the Parker place on Craig's Street.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902

June 14

(No. 2)

Chimney Swifts may be seen flying over the garden every morning and evening. I thought a few weeks ago that a pair of Grackles were preparing to nest in some of our evergreens but they have not been seen there of late. The Rats which infested the garden in such numbers in 1900 & 1901 have wholly disappeared. Gray Squirrels are in their usual numbers & I saw one or two young about  $2/3$  grown to-day.

Early this afternoon a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, singing in the jungle, broke one of the rules respecting its notes which I had hitherto supposed to be without exception. After uttering the usual hoarse, woodsy, rapidly-enunciating toc-toc-toc-toc-toc it closed with a guttural tau-tau, tau-tau, tau-tau; in other words these terminal notes, although perfectly normal in form and tone, were doublet or given in pairs, something I have never known the Yellow-bill to do before. This particular bird did it only once although I heard him sing in the usual way a dozen times or more.

It is evident that the birds in our garden are living in comparative peace and plenty this year and that they are meeting with unusual success in hatching and rearing their young. Indeed I do not know of a single nest that has been broken up as yet. Cats are absolutely excluded, there are no longer any cats (I fancy they despoiled all the nests they could find & reach), English Sparrows are unusually scarce this season and I do not think that there are any crows living in the neighborhood.



Cornwall, Mass.

1902.

June 14

(1903)

Brilliantly clear with light S. W. wind. Warm at midday, cool at morning & evening

I came to Cornwall by the 5:00 train from Arlington this afternoon. A Bittern was pumping in the meadow directly opposite the cabin. He has been there constantly for two weeks or more and I suspect that there is a nest in one of the large clusters of button bushes brought down by the ice last winter and deposited in this meadow.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> we found a Phoebe sitting on her nest in the stern boat house opposite Boer's Hall. I think she had only just completed her set of four eggs on this date for Gilbert saw her on work on the nest only five or six days before. He put his hand in the nest at 4.40 P.M. to-day and is sure that he felt all four eggs but when I examined the nest only about an hour later (at 5.45) three of the eggs had hatched. Strange to say we have never seen either of the old Phoebes since May 31<sup>st</sup> although whenever we have felt the eggs they have invariably been warm. The sitting of nests near us (she cannot possibly see us) when we are a long distance off and slip out and off into the neighboring woods. The bird who has successfully reared a brood of young in the stern house shed at Boer's Hall has also been in the habit of flying over through the windows whenever any one passed along the path in front of it. Gilbert saw her come out to-day so she is probably preparing to lay a second clutch in the old nest.

1902.

June 15

Cloudy with heavy showers at daybreak and light misty rain in afternoon and evening.

In the afternoon I went to the farm by way of Pine Ridge, Mowens, the Lake and the Barrett oak woods, returning through Birch Field, Prescott's farm & over Davis's Hill. With note book and pencil in hand I jotted down every bird that I saw or heard. The census must be a fairly complete one of the birds that are breeding in the woods and openings through which I passed for the warm, misty weather was peculiarly favorable for my purpose and most of the birds sang freely during the entire afternoon. I missed a few no doubt especially in the Davis Hill country which I did not reach until the night was closing in. The full list of species and individuals is given on the following page.

It is now certain that no Wood Thrushes are breeding <sup>anywhere</sup> ~~anywhere~~ in my woods this season. The weather was especially of Wood favorable for their singing this afternoon and the <sup>Wood</sup> ~~thrushes~~ <sup>thrushes</sup> were making the most of it but not a Wood Thrush did I hear although I visited all their favorite haunts.

I noted the song of a Black-bellied Cuckoo on the farm to-day as woe-2-2-2-cow-cow-cow-cow. The woe-2-2-2 (rolling & somewhat guttural) is frequently uttered as a call by this Cuckoo but I do not remember to have heard it used as a preface to the song before.

The weather was perfect for Rails & other marsh birds this afternoon & evening but I heard only a Virginia Rail & a Bittern. Evidently the "Kickers" is not here this season, nor is the Sora.

Absence of  
Sora Rails  
& "Kickers"

1902.

June 15  
(no 2)

Census of Birds breeding between Ball's Hill & Barrett Farm.  
(\* = in full song)

1. Bluebird. - ♂♀ at bird box (the Farm)
2. Robin. - ♂♀ most (Ball's Hill) 2\* (the Farm) 1\* (Bensen's) 1 (Davis Hill)
3. Veery. - 7\* (3 near Ball's Hill, 3 in Davis's Swamp, 1 in Barrett Run)
4. Cat Bird. 2\* at Ball's Hill, 1 seen at Farm
5. Thrasher. - 3\* 1 seen (1 off. Ball's Hill, 1 near Bensen's, ♂♀ in thick field)
6. Chickadee. Heard in four different places.
7. Black & White Anser. 6\* (3 at Ball's Hill)
8. Pine Warbler 2\* on Pine Ridge, 2\* on Davis's Hill.
9. Chestnut-sided " 8\* (one at Ball's Hill)
10. Blackburnian " 1\* in Prescott's white pine woods.
11. Black thr. Green " 4\* (one on Ball's Hill)
12. Redstart 5\* (one at Ball's Hill, three about farm house)
13. Canadian Warbler. - 2\* within 30 yds of one another, & end Davis Sw.
14. Oven. Bird. - 14\* (two at Ball's Hill, four on dip on wing)
15. Maryland Yellowthroat. - 4\* (one near Ball's Hill)
16. Red-eyed Vireo. - 17\* (three at Ball's Hill, two ♀♀ sitting on eggs)
17. Yellowthroat " 4\* (Ball's Hill, Davis's Hill, Bensen's & the Farm)
18. Scarlet Tanager. - 2\* (one at Ball's Hill, the other at the Farm)
19. Cedar Bird. - ② at the Farm, heard at Ball's Hill.
20. Barn Swallow. - Heard at Ball's Hill
21. Bank " " " " "
22. Vesper Sparrow. - 4\* (1 off. Ball's Hill, one at Pine Ridge, one N. of Bensen's, one at Farm)
23. Song " - 3\* (1 " " " " " Ridge on at Farm.)
24. Swamp " 1\* in their meadow opposite Davis's Hill.
25. Chipping " 3\* 2 seen (4 at Farm, 1\* on Pine Ridge)
26.  Towhee. - 1\* on roadside near Bensen's
27. Rose br. Grosbeak. - 3\* (1 off. Ball's Hill, 1 in Davis's Swamp, 1 near farm house)
28. Bobolink. - 3\* (1 " " " 1 in Holden's meadow, 1 in Harris meadow)

1902.

June 15<sup>th</sup>  
(no 3)

Census of Birds Breeding between Ball's Hill & Barrett Farm

29. Cow-Bird . - 1 seen at Farm.  
30. Bob. Oriole . - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  (1 at Ball's Hill, 1 near Bandura's, 1 at Farm)  
31. Red winged Blackbird . - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  (2 off. Ball's Hill, 1 off. Davis's Hill)  
32. Crow . - 3 seen.  
33. Blue Jay . - Pair with nest in oak near cabin, Ball's Hill, 1 seen at Farm.  
34. King Bird 2 at Ball's Hill, 2 in orchard at Farm.  
35. Crested Flycatcher . - 1 heard in orchard at Farm.  
36. Wood Pewee . - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  on Ball's Hill, 1 seen in elm at Farm.  
37. Phoebe . - 1 seen to fly from barn house shed at Ball's Hill.  
38. Scrub Flycatcher . - 1 heard (just note) in orchard at Farm.  
39. Yellow-billed Cuckoo 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  on Ball's Hill.  
40. Black " " 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  1 seen (1 at Ball's Hill, 2 at Farm)  
41. Chimney Swift (3) at Ball's Hill, (10) at Farm, 6 elsewhere.  
42. Downy Woodpecker 1 at farm, 1 with young on Davis's Hill.  
43. F. Wren . - 2 (one at farm, one on Pine Ridge)  
44. Parula sp. . - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  (one on foot of Barrett run, one on Prescott's pine hill)  
45. Quail . - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  at the Farm (heard by Gilbert).  
46. Virginia Rail . - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  in woods at foot of Davis's Hill.  
47. Willow . - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  " " " Ball's "  
48. Green Heron . - 1 flying over Pine Park.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

June 16

Cloudy, sultry, calm.

Yesterday afternoon I found a Blue Jay sitting on her nest which was placed in a fork in the main trunk of a white oak ten or twelve inches in diameter just below the fork which was about fifteen feet above the ground. ~~It stands~~ stands by the side of the path which leads from the old to the new cabin. I had seen both the jays together in its top earlier in the day surrounded by a number of excited and noisy little birds. I begin to believe that there is some truth in the statement (made, originally, by I know not whom) that predaceous animals seek their trading at some distance from their own homes. If it be not so in the case of the jays, at least, it is hard to understand why this pair of birds have spared a Robin's nest in the white pine which grows against the front of our wood shed and a Red-eyed Vireo's nest suspended among the terminal twigs of a drooping branch of another small pine directly over the path about thirty feet beyond the wood shed and seven fifty feet from Gilbert's cabin.

The history of the Robin's nest is interesting. Gilbert found it on the morning (at about 9 o'clock) of June 1<sup>st</sup> when it was completed but empty. When I looked into it at about 5 P.M. the same day it held one egg. It was next examined (by Gilbert) on the 5<sup>th</sup> when there were four eggs, the first set. At about noon of the 15<sup>th</sup> Gilbert put his hand in the nest and felt all four eggs. At 7 A.M. to-day (16<sup>th</sup>) ~~then~~ I examined the nest and found four young birds. This would make the period of incubation only twelve days for even had the bird begun sitting when she laid her first egg she could not have incubated the last more than twelve days unless she laid more than one egg a day which seems highly improbable.

1902.

June 16

(No 2)

The Red-eyed Vireo's nest was finished but empty when I found it on the evening of June 1<sup>st</sup>. There was one egg at 8 A.M. next day, and four when Gilbert again visited Balls Hill on June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Vireo has been sitting steadily ever since but when I last examined the nest at 7 A.M. to-day her eggs although dark-colored were still unhatched. Assuming that she began incubating them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (when Gilbert found her on the nest) she has already devoted to the task nearly the same time which has sufficed the Robin to hatch her young! She is a close sister allowing us to brush against the foliage which conceals the nest rather perfectly, without moving but she will not permit us to go too touch her.

Reginald Noble Howe Jr. tells me that Samuel Hosi's son has in captivity a pair of Great Horned Owls which when not large enough to fly he took from the nest in Lawrence's pine woods (by the river near Birch Island) last year and further that the birds nested in the same tree again this season and again lost their young which were found dead on the ground beneath the nest a few weeks ago, by Albert Lawrence's son, I believe.

While waiting at the West Medford Station this morning to take the train for Cambridge I heard a Purple Finch and a Phoebe in full song. A Flicker also shouted twice. There were a number of Barn Swallows flying back & forth between Parker's barn and the river meadows.

Three English Sparrows, two adult ♂♂ & a ♀, visited the cabin early this morning. It is two years or more since I have seen any three before.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

June 16

(No 3)

On reaching Cambridge I took a car down North Avenue to Lincoln Street and walked thence to our place. In the Botanic Garden, where I spent upwards of an hour looking at the out-of-doors collection of plants, I noted the following birds:—

1. Robin.— One in full song. Birds noted
2. Yellow Warbler.— One singing in the old orchard north of the greenhouse in
3. Redstart.— " " " Gardens Botanic
4. Red-eyed Vireo—two " " " Garden.
5. Yellow Thr.— One " " "
6. Cedar Bird.— Two heard " "
7. Goldfinch.— A pair " "
8. Chipping Sparrow.— " " " feeding young out of nest. young,
9. Song " " " " chirping anxiously & excitedly with a
10. English " Swarming " "
11. Crow.— One heard cawing near "
12. Kingbird.— " in apple orchard north of greenhouse.
13. Least Flycatcher.— One " " " " " another to E. of Garden both in apple orchards
14. Yellow-bellied Cuckoo.— One in the Garden.

The Song Sparrows were together in thicket on the borders of the pond & were evidently excited by the presence of a cat. After I drove the cat away the 2 Sparrows began singing. There can be no doubt that the birds were breeding in the Garden.

Between Concord Avenue and Sparks Street, in the shade trees on small grassy bordering Craigie & Bucklehorn Streets I heard singing on Craigie & 2 Robins, 2 Yellow Warblers, a Redstart, a Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Birds (singing), an Oriole, a Black-bellied Cuckoo, & Least Flycatchers Bucklehorn Streets.  
 (one in the large willows on Concord Avenue, the other in the Parkin place)  
 I also saw several Swifts. This makes nine species in all.

Concord, Mass.

1902.  
June 18

Brilliantly clear with strong, cool N.W. wind.

Came to Concord this afternoon by the 5:01 train from Arlington to West Melrose.

Walking to Bannet Meadows after supper I heard a Night Heron grunting over the Great Meadows and two or three Marsh Wrens singing in the belt of Phloxes grass at Beech Dam Rapids. Two Red-wings and a Song Sparrow were also singing. A Bittern was pumping opposite the cabin on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> but I heard none this evening although the weather was calm & beautiful.

Birds in  
song.

Two Robins and a Songer were singing at the western end of Pool's Hill and a Grass Finch in Pine Park. As twilight was falling I heard a Whippoorwill in the direction of Benson's house, probably in Prescott's pine.

The Blue Jays and Green Jays have been at the height of their vocal work for a week past. The former were out in great force this evening swarming the marshes resound with their hoarse voices.

When I left here on the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> the Red-eyed Vireo's egg in the nest near the cabin were still unhatched. <sup>Vireo's nest</sup> Hansen saw all four of them late yesterday afternoon but when he looked into the nest at 9:15 this morning there were three young birds and one egg as was the case when I examined the nest at 6 P.M. The ♀ was absent on the latter occasion but at 7:30 P.M. I found her on the nest. I thought at first that she was dead for her head was bent down under her breast & quite invisible while the feathers of her back & hind neck were ruffled & standing erect. Indeed all that I could



Concord, Mass.

1902.

June 18  
(No 2)

made out was a shapeless mound of feathers with a tail projecting over one side of the nest. As the light was still strong and my eyes within six inches of the nest and nearly a foot above it I could not well have been deceived. Moreover when I finally shook the branch slightly I distinctly saw the bird draw out her entire head from beneath her breast, not without effort, after which she held her head and neck in the usual position. I am in doubt as to whether she had been merely fondling her young with her bill or whether she had gone to sleep in the position in which I first found her. I watched her closely for at least two minutes before touching the branch but observed no motion, not even that of the pulsations caused by breathing so often noticed in sitting birds. Gilbert tells me that he looked at the nest about ten minutes after I had left it and that the Vireo's head was then in sight although she was resting her bill on the side of the nest.

Red-eyed  
Vireo

As I have already noted, this nest contained one egg at 7 A.M. on June 2<sup>nd</sup> (it was empty at 7 P.M. on the 1<sup>st</sup>) and four on June 5<sup>th</sup> (at 9 A.M.). Assuming that the bird began incubating on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> (she was <sup>then</sup> on the nest & apparently sitting steadily) it has taken her thirteen (13) days to hatch them of her eggs.

Period of  
incubation  
13 days

In the garden at Cambridge to-day (at 1 P.M.) I saw a male Red-eye feed his sitting mate. He approached the nest by a succession of short flights singing steadily the while although he held in the tip of his bill those morsels of food which his mate took from him without leaving her eggs. It looked like a small beetle.

♂ Red-eyed  
Vireo feeds  
his sitting  
mate.

Concord, Mass.

1902.  
June 19

Cloudy with light S.W. wind and heavy rain in P.M., clearing just before sunset.

At about 5.30 A.M. I was awakened by the clamorous cries of several small birds which were evidently greatly excited about something. A Grosbeak was especially vigorous, keeping up a continuous shrill, almost shrieking, outcry. Gilbert, who was also aroused by the sound, arose and looking out of his east window saw a crow fly from an oak just behind the stone woodshed bearing a good-sized, grayish colored object in his bill. It was perhaps a young Grosbeak.

On making a tour of inspection some two hours later I found the Robin's nest in the pine in front of the wood shed undisturbed but the Red-eye's nest had been torn forcibly from the fork which had supported it and, empty and almost shapeless, lay in the middle of the foot-path several yards from the tree. I could discover no traces of the young or the unhatched egg which it held last night but a number of olivaceous-buffed feathers evidently from the back of the parent Vireo lay scattered about on the ground or clinging to the lining of the nest. They were so soaked and matted with dew as to suggest that the deed of violence had been committed at some time during the night when the shreds of the nest which still adhered to the pine branch were disposed in such a way as to lead me to think that the nest had been pulled down from beneath, probably by the cat whose tracks I found in the sandy path near the cabin. The Blue Jay was sitting quietly on her nest at 7 A.M. near the pine in the outery on the eastern lawn.

Raid made by a Dove on the small birds nesting near the cabin.

The Red-eye's nest at the cabin torn down, probably by a Cat.

Concord, Mass. (The Farm)

1902.

June 20

Brilliantly clear with light W. wind. A perfect June day.

I went to the farm yesterday afternoon in a pouring rain and spent the night and the whole of to-day there.

The Phoebe has returned to the old barn and I repeatedly saw one of them go to the nest under the eave in which she reared her first brood this season and which she is evidently preparing to use again. The pair at Bass Hill are also about the house and again the female has apparently flown out through the window when Gilbert or I have walked past along the path.

Two pairs of Phoebe occupy same nest twice in one season.

The Hummingbirds at the farm must have built another nest (their first was deserted & partially dismantled on June 2<sup>nd</sup>) for I saw the ♂ last evening and again several times to-day perched on the lip of the (dead) twig of an apple tree in the orchard behind the house as well as in the flower garden.

Humming

Although I have heard no Indigo Birds at the farm this month I found a fine male in the orchard behind the house late yesterday afternoon.

Indigo Bird

Two Field Sparrows sang a few times in the blueberry pasture last evening just after sunset & I heard another this afternoon in a pasture beyond  
Sparrows.

Field Sparrows singing.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

June 21

Cloudy with heavy rain beginning at 8 a.m. and  
lasting through the day.

I left the farm house at about 11 a.m. and  
walked to Bull's Hill by way of Birch Hill and  
Davis's Hill.

As I was passing through the apple orchard  
I heard one of the Crested Flycatchers calling in  
the rows of tall oaks and at the same instant  
saw its mate flying past me bearing in her bill  
what looked like a large, ripe cherry. She went  
directly to a small, leafy wild apple tree, over-  
with poison ivy, which stands on the extreme  
southern edge of the orchard near the line of oaks  
just mentioned and disappeared among its foliage.

On examining this tree I found that it had a  
hollow branch at almost the exact height where I  
had lost sight of the bird. The light was so poor  
that I could not see the interior of the cavity at  
all distinctly from above, but from below, where it  
opened into a much larger hollow trunk (the main  
stem of the tree), I could make out a mass of  
what looked like dry grass & weed stalks which  
quite filled the hollow branch at a point just above  
its intersection with the larger trunk & about  
two feet below the opening (a small, rounded one/  
at the end of the branch. I have little doubt  
that this was the Flycatcher's nest. Which I was  
looking at it better than came about calling anxiously.

Nest of  
Crested  
Flycatcher  
at farm.

A Black-brown Warbler was singing in Prescott's fern  
woods. I saw the bird a rather dull-plumaged ♂.

Black-brown  
Warbler.

1902.

June 21  
(No 2)

bird is without doubt the same that I heard in practically the same place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month and it may also be the same as the one that was singing on Davis's Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

So far as I can ascertain there are no Black-burnians in the pines near Pulpit Rock this summer (I heard one there at migration time), although there were two males singing there in June 1900 and one last year. No doubt there are one or two pairs breeding in Lawrence's woods but I have not been there this season.

Black-burnian  
Warblers

As I was following the path which leads from the Barnett orchard to Birch Field walking wisely over the water-soaked pine needles I surprised a Cooper's Hawk which was perched on one of the under (dead) branches of a small pine directly over the path. Instead of flying away from it came directly towards me passing within ten yards & giving me a close view of it. It looked like a young bird but was probably an immature female. It is actually the only Cooper's Hawk which I have seen in this part of Concord for three or more years. When it first took wing several smaller birds (Black-throated Green Warblers I thought) in the pines near where it had been sitting set up a low sharp te-te-te-te-te-te-te which they continued until it had flown out of sight. This sound seems to be made by a number of warblers as well as Sparrows when they are alarmed by the presence of a Hawk.

Cooper's  
Hawk in  
the Barnett  
woods.

Miscellaneous Bird Notes.

1902.

"I found three male Henslow's Sparrows between Leominster and Launceston [Mass.] the other day. One of them was fooling with a female so I presume they will breed there. I had not heard of their being here before" (H. Porter Hall, M. D. Leominster Mass. in lit. under date May 9<sup>th</sup> 1902.) This I believe is an earlier date than any that I have ever noted for Henslow's Sparrows in Massachusetts.

Henslow's Sparrows  
between  
Leominster  
&  
Launceston, Mass.  
(Early arrival  
date)

Under date of May 27, 1902 Abbott N. Hoyer writes me from Monadnock (= Dublin) N. H. "I suppose you have seen lots of Pileated [Woodpecker] nests? We have one  $3/4$  of a mile from us."

Pileated  
Woodpecker  
nest at  
Monadnock, N. H.

"Look Hel. leuco. this morning. — good vivid yellow spot on the breast" (J. H. Sage, post card dated May 7, 1902)

Helminthophila  
leucostriata  
at Longbrook  
Portland  
Conn.

1902

Miscellaneous Bird Notes.

A Worm-eating Warbler was shot on April 16, 1902, Worm-eating  
at Salem Willows, Mass. by J. H. Sears. The bird is Warbler at  
now in the Peabody Academy collection at Salem, Mass. Salem, Mass.  
Walter Deane in lit.

A Partridge's nest "five of eggs" was found near Partridge's  
the Golf Links on the hill top behind Belmont village, nest in  
on May 15<sup>th</sup> by O. A. Lottrop (Zote W. Deane in lit. / Belmont.

Mr. Guy Emerson (of 78 Powell St. Brooklyn) Lesser Scaup  
writes me that on April 19<sup>th</sup> he saw three Lesser Duckson  
Scaup Ducks (1 male & 2 females) on Fresh Pond. Fresh Pond  
He adds that they had been seen there the day in April.  
before (18<sup>th</sup>) by Mr. Horace Wright.

Mr. Guy Emerson writes me that Mr. Horace Ruddy Ducks  
Wright saw a Ruddy Duck in Fresh Pond on on Fresh Pond  
April 18 and that on the following day (19<sup>th</sup>) in April  
he (Mr. Emerson) found five there. In response to  
a question from me he adds in a later letter: "I  
saw no adult male among the Ruddy Ducks.  
My friends saw one, however."

Mr. Guy Emerson further informs me by letter that Tennessee W.  
he found a Tennessee Warbler in Brooklyn, Mass. in Brooklyn  
on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Earle Stafford (of 50 Irving St. Cambridge) Lincoln's  
writes me that a Lincoln's Finch was seen by him on Finch in  
a small wooded island in marsh to west of center of the Willows, Public Garden  
Belmont on May 18 & another in "the gardens" (Public Garden? Boston) & at  
the day before. Rock M.  
Belmont.

1902.

Miscellaneous Bird Notes.

Mr. Earl Stoddard (of 50 Irving St. Cambridge) writes me that Mr. Horace W. Wright of Boston found a Cape May Warbler in the Public Garden, Boston, on May 11. The next day (12<sup>th</sup>) it was seen by several persons including Bradford Torrey and Mr. Stoddard.

Cape May  
Warbler in  
Public Garden,  
Boston.

An Orchard Oriole ("made in full plumage & song") was seen at Ipswich, Mass. on May 17 by Mr. Earl Stoddard of Cambridge.

Orchard Oriole  
at Ipswich.

Mr. Richard S. Eustis of Cambridge writes me that on May 18, 1902 he & his friend Howard Turner "found a female Hairy Woodpecker and her nest in 'Fairyland' [Concord, Mass.]. The nest was on the eastern shore of the pond well up, in a dead limb between the path and the water. x x x The trail beneath it was covered with chips and the young birds were peeping loudly. On the twentieth of last October" Mr. Eustis "saw a female in the same place."

nest of  
Hairy Wood-  
pecker in  
Fairyland,  
Concord

Mr. Eustis also writes me that on May 18, 1902 he and Mr. Turner "found a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows singing, on the western side of the Cambridge Reservoir in Quinlan [Mass.], near where Concord Turnpike crosses it." This is most interesting as showing how these birds cling to certain localities for in this very place I heard a Grasshopper Sparrow singing upwards of thirty years ago while driving to Concord with my old friend Chas. M. Carter.

Grasshopper  
Sparrows  
in Quinlan



1902

Birds noted at Lancaster, Mass.  
May and June.

Sialia sialis May 20<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>3</sup>, 16<sup>8</sup> 17<sup>8</sup> 28<sup>7</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>

June 4<sup>8</sup> 5<sup>8</sup> 22<sup>8</sup>

Merula mig. May 16<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>10</sup> 22 26<sup>8</sup> <sup>Wm's Hollow</sup> 27<sup>3</sup> <sup>These nests with 3 eggs</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> <sup>Wm's Hollow</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>

June 4<sup>8</sup> 5<sup>8</sup> 22<sup>8</sup>

Turdus mus. May 20<sup>3</sup> 21<sup>8</sup> 18<sup>2</sup>

June 3<sup>8</sup>

" pallasi M

" fuscescens May 20<sup>4</sup> 21<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>8</sup>  
June 5<sup>8</sup>

Harporhynchus ruf. May 20<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>8</sup> 30<sup>8</sup>  
June 3<sup>1</sup> 4<sup>8</sup>

Galeoscoptes car. May 16<sup>4</sup> 21<sup>3</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup>  
June 6<sup>8</sup>

Sitta carolinensis May 28<sup>1</sup> <sup>Sancti</sup> <sup>Two nests one 6 fresh eggs, one with young found about May 20 by John Hays</sup>  
June 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup>

" canadensis May 23 <sup>Parkin Woods, S. Lancaster</sup> <sup>2 eggs nest 6 young about</sup> <sup>Perry Farm</sup> 28<sup>8</sup> <sup>on down</sup>

Parus atricapillus May 26<sup>2</sup>

Mniotilta varia May 20<sup>3</sup> 21<sup>8</sup> 22<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 27 <sup>seen 5 eggs 1/2 in.</sup>  
June 5<sup>8</sup>

Helminthophila ruf. May 20<sup>8</sup> 21<sup>8</sup>  
June 3<sup>8</sup>

Dendroica virens May 21<sup>8</sup> 22<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>8</sup> 29<sup>8</sup>  
June 5<sup>8</sup> 6<sup>8</sup>

" virens May 21<sup>8</sup> 26<sup>4</sup> 29<sup>8</sup>  
June 3<sup>8</sup> 5<sup>3</sup>

" caerulea June 5<sup>8</sup> <sup>Parkin Woods</sup> <sup>2 eggs</sup> <sup>1st</sup>

1902.

Birds noted at Lancaster, Mass.  
May & June.

Dendroica aestiva <sup>Can. down</sup> May 20 <sup>4 nest</sup>  $21\frac{4}{8}$   $22\frac{10}{8}$   $26\frac{2}{8}$   $27\frac{6}{8}$

June  $5\frac{4}{8}$   $6\frac{4}{8}$   $22\frac{2}{8}$   $23\frac{1}{8}$

" blackburniana <sup>Pine woods near</sup> May 26 <sup>4 egg</sup>  
<sup>Pine woods near</sup> June 3 <sup>1188c</sup>

" striata May  $21\frac{1}{8}$   $23\frac{1}{8}$   $24\frac{4}{8}$

" pennsylvanica May  $20\frac{3}{8}$   $21\frac{1}{8}$   $26\frac{6}{8}$   $28\frac{1}{8}$

" maculosa <sup>Can. song</sup> May 20  $21\frac{1}{8}$

Setophaga ruticilla May  $20\frac{4}{8}$   $21\frac{3}{8}$   $22\frac{3}{8}$   $26\frac{1}{8}$   $28\frac{3}{8}$

June  $5\frac{3}{8}$

Sylvania canadensis <sup>Can. song</sup> May 20  $22\frac{1}{8}$   $26\frac{1}{8}$   $28\frac{3}{8}$

June  $3\frac{1}{8}$

" pusilla <sup>Can. song</sup> May 22 <sup>1 egg</sup>

Spinus auricapillus May  $20\frac{3}{8}$   $21\frac{2}{8}$   $26\frac{3}{8}$   $29\frac{1}{8}$

June  $3\frac{4}{8}$   $5\frac{3}{8}$

Geothlypis trichas May  $20\frac{2}{8}$   $21\frac{3}{8}$   $26\frac{3}{8}$

June  $3\frac{1}{8}$

Vireo olivaceus May  $20\frac{3}{8}$   $21\frac{3}{8}$   $22\frac{2}{8}$   $26\frac{1}{8}$   $29\frac{1}{8}$

June  $3\frac{5}{8}$   $5\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>nest</sup>  $22\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>2 eggs</sup>

" flavifrons May  $20\frac{1}{8}$   $21\frac{3}{8}$   $22\frac{1}{8}$   $30\frac{2}{8}$

June  $4\frac{2}{8}$   $5\frac{2}{8}$   $22\frac{2}{8}$

" solitarius May 23 <sup>Pine woods</sup>  $24\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>nest</sup>  $28\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>1 egg</sup>

June 3  $4\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>nest</sup>  $4\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>egg</sup>

" gilvus May  $20\frac{3}{8}$   $21\frac{6}{8}$   $22\frac{1}{8}$   $23\frac{6}{8}$   $26\frac{3}{8}$   $27\frac{3}{8}$   $28\frac{4}{8}$   $30\frac{3}{8}$

June  $4\frac{4}{8}$   $5\frac{2}{8}$   $22\frac{6}{8}$  <sup>(young)</sup> <sup>on wing</sup>

Ampelis cedrorum May 23 <sup>1st</sup>  $29\frac{1}{8}$  <sup>1st</sup>

1902.

Birds noted at Lancaster, Mass

Mar. - June.

Tachycineta bicolor May 27<sup>(2)</sup> 28<sup>(2)</sup> 29<sup>(2)</sup> Two nests on John Rogers' floor,  
hammock on edge  
June 4<sup>(2)</sup> Nesting box  
Cape. Birds flown

Petrochelidon lun.

Hirundo erythrogastr May 20<sup>\*</sup> 26<sup>\*</sup> 29<sup>0</sup>  
June 3<sup>\*</sup> 5<sup>\*</sup>

Colida riparia May 20<sup>(3)</sup> 21<sup>(3)</sup> 22<sup>(3)(3)</sup> 27<sup>25</sup> 28<sup>25</sup> 29<sup>30</sup> 30<sup>40</sup>  
June 22<sup>40</sup> holes in wire bank by big elm.  
Colony wholly undisturbed therefore

Piranga erythromelas May 26<sup>3</sup>  
June 3<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>3</sup> Parker's brook

Carpodacus purpureus May 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>3</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>1</sup>  
June 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>

Spinus tristis May 26<sup>(2)</sup> 22<sup>(3)</sup> 26<sup>1</sup>  
June 6<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup>

Poocetes gramineus May 26<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>2</sup>  
June 3<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>1</sup>

Passerculus sav. May 27<sup>1</sup> <sup>Pawsey Farm</sup> nestlings identified by sight only &  
note with absolute certainty

Coturniculus passerinus <sup>J.E. May's gift</sup> May 22<sup>1</sup> <sup>Pawsey Farm</sup> 29<sup>(2)</sup>

" henslowi <sup>Pawsey Farm</sup> May 26<sup>4 2 1/2</sup> 29<sup>\*</sup>  
<sup>Pawsey Farm</sup>  
June 3<sup>4 2 1/2</sup> 19

Spizella socialis May 20<sup>\*</sup> 21<sup>0</sup> 22<sup>\*</sup> 26<sup>\*</sup> 27<sup>\*</sup> 28<sup>\*</sup>  
June 3<sup>\*</sup> 4<sup>\*</sup> 6<sup>\*</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> <sup>young on</sup>  
<sup>thin Mall</sup> <sup>hanging on cottage</sup>

" pusilla May 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>3</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>  
June 4<sup>1</sup>

Melospiza melodia May 20<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> 28<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>  
June 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>1</sup> 6<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup>

" lincolni May 21<sup>1</sup> <sup>nestling in balsam poplar 25 ft. above ground</sup>  
<sup>one juvenile</sup>

Birds noted at Lancaster, Mass.

May & June.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus May 26  $\frac{1}{2}$  28  $\frac{1}{2}$  <sup>4-44</sup> <sub>Hammer</sub> <sup>Pine Hill</sup> 29  $\frac{3}{4}$  <sup>4-44</sup> <sub>39</sub>

Cardinalis virginianus May 28 <sup>E. H. River Hill near Bank of Hudson River</sup> 1889 <sup>Hall's Immense</sup> June 18 <sup>J. C. Mayes</sup> <sup>Hudson Park</sup>

Hydromela historiana May 20 <sup>Century</sup> 20 <sup>Visiting</sup> 21 <sup>Visiting</sup> 26 28' 29'

Cyanospiza cyanea May 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>

*Dolichonyx orozinus* May 20<sup>6</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 21<sup>8</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 22<sup>8</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 26<sup>3</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 27<sup>5</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 28<sup>3</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 30<sup>10</sup>/<sub>x</sub>  
June 4<sup>4</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>x</sub>

June 4<sup>4</sup>/<sub>5</sub> 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub>. 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>

Molothrus al May 22.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>

Luisitana g. aeneus May 20' 30<sup>2</sup> <sup>Miss. Tenn.</sup>

Agelaius phoeniceus May 20! 16'x.

June 22, '04.

Sturnella magna May 20<sup>2</sup><sub>✕</sub> 21<sup>2</sup><sub>✕</sub> 22<sup>8</sup><sub>✕</sub> 27<sup>1</sup><sub>✕</sub> 28<sup>1</sup><sub>✕</sub> 30<sup>5</sup>

June 4<sup>2</sup><sub>\*</sub> 21<sup>2</sup><sub>\*</sub> 22<sup>6</sup><sub>(2~~\*~~)</sub>

Icterus galbula May 20<sup>3</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 21<sup>8</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 26<sup>2</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 27<sup>4</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 28<sup>4</sup> 29<sup>2</sup>/<sub>x</sub> 30<sup>4</sup>/<sub>x</sub>

June 4  $\frac{2}{*}$  5  $\frac{1}{*}$  6  $\frac{1}{*}$  22  $\frac{2}{*}$  young on wing

Corvus americanus May 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>4</sup> 29<sup>6</sup>

Cyanocitta cristata May 26<sup>2</sup> <sup>new</sup> eggs

Time  $3\frac{4}{5}$  h  $5\frac{2}{x}$

Tyrannus tyrannus May, 20<sup>3</sup> 21<sup>3</sup> 22<sup>6</sup> 23<sup>4</sup> 26<sup>3</sup> 29<sup>2</sup>

June 4<sup>2</sup> 6<sup>-1</sup>

Sayornis phoebe May 23<sup>1</sup>, 26<sup>2</sup>, 29<sup>3</sup>

Turn 3'

Contopus virens May 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 21<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> building 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

June 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 21<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

1902.

Introsponus vociferus May 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>

June 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Chordeiles virginiana June 2<sup>1</sup> <sup>Clinton village</sup> keeping

Chaetura pelagica <sup>near Linn's Holomani</sup> May 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup>  
— <sup>Centurus virens</sup>  
— <sup>(500)</sup>

Turn 2 (500) going to  
road in distance

Trochilus colubris May, 21<sup>st</sup> 1897 <sup>Cincinnati</sup> Japan

Colaptes auratus May 20 - 27. x

June 3<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup>

Dryofates villosus

" pubescens May 20<sup>th</sup> 1898

Buteo lineatus May 2, 1897.

" Pennsylvanicus May - two insts & eggs J. G. Thayer.

Accipiter cooperii May 20' <sup>skinning</sup> <sup>conserved</sup> <sup>Gen. Tamm</sup>  
<sup>mouth</sup> <sup>branner</sup> <sup>at Tamm</sup>

" below Jan. 3' Hudson m.

Bubo virginianus <sup>Pine woods near Perry</sup> May 25 <sup>1904</sup> J. E. Hodge

Bonasa umbella May 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
June 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> <sup>Baker Woods.</sup>

Colinus virginianus May 20<sup>th</sup> 9  
June 22<sup>nd</sup> 9

1902.

Birds noted at Lancaster, Mass.

May & June

Zenaidura macroura May 18<sup>(12)</sup> <sup>Pansy Farm / near 2 Long Point</sup> <sup>P. G. Thompson</sup> <sup>Pansy Farm</sup> 2685<sup>\*</sup> 29<sup>(18)</sup> <sup>along Oak House</sup>  
June 3<sup>\*</sup>

Actitis macularia May 21<sup>2</sup> 30<sup>4</sup>

Ardea virescens

June 5<sup>(heard on</sup> <sup>Baldwin woods</sup> <sup>birds downy)</sup>

Ceryle alcyon May 21<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>

Concord, Mass.

1902.

June 22

Clear and cool with light north-west wind.

During a walk from Miss Holmes' to the village this morning I found a young warbling vireo in the grass by the roadside and heard several others in the upper branches of the large elms that shade the main street. They uttered a nasal kää (or ää or eh) at perfectly regular intervals (twice every three seconds by my watch) sometimes keeping up the cry for fifteen or twenty minutes without cessation and then, after a brief rest, beginning again. This call is closely similar to that of the old birds but somewhat shorter & more insistent as well as given much more frequently & continuously. Despite the fact that most of the young appear to have left their nests the old males were singing almost as freely this morning as they did two or three weeks ago.

The adult ♂ Orioles have nearly ceased flitting & I have seen but few of late nor do I hear many young. I fear that most of them which settled in such numbers along the Concord street a month or more ago have been possessed by "Sprenging". There was one brood of young near Miss Holmes' house to-day, however, calling incessantly in the nest for food while their parents brought to them at short intervals. I judged that they were still rather novel for their voices were still soft & liquid. I noted their cries as chi-ë-ë-ë-ë, chi-ë-ë-ë-ë etc. Just before they leave the nest their will change into the insistent, descending & really tying hee-we-an-mamma as I understood it in my notes years ago.

1902.

June 23

The birds singing in the trees immediately about Miss Holman's house this month have been: - Robins (3 pairs & 3 nests found)  
Chippies (2 pairs, 2 nests found), Redstart 1, Yellow Warbler 1, Red-eyed Vireo 1, Yellow-throated Vireo 1, Waxwing Vireo 1, Baltimore Oriole 1, Least Flycatcher 1 (nest in maple, 25 ft.) Wood Pewee 1 (nest in same fork of same elm where a pair nested last year).

I find in my pocket note book the following data relating to the Robin's nest on the head of one of the columns which support the porch roof, where a pair of Robins secured two broods last year May 1. - ♀ Robin sitting (Miss Foster)

" 16 - 3 young apparently just hatched (Miss Foster)

" 26 - 2 " left nest.

" 27 - 3<sup>rd</sup> " " "

" 28 - Female Robin seen to visit empty nest 6 or 8 times. She brought nothing but entered nest & sitting low in it turned slowly around a number of times - Miss Foster.

" 30. I saw a ♀ Robin feeding young high in elm on porch.

June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Robins at work both days relining nest.

" 5 (9 a.m.) " began sitting again.

A Chippy built her nest in a woodbine directly over the entrance to our cottage. The first egg was laid on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May and the bird began sitting on the morning of the 30<sup>th</sup>. The young were first seen out of the nest on June 23 when they were able to fly only a few yards. They called tee-tee, tee-tee in liquid yet insistent tones all day long. I do not know how many eggs there were nor when the young hatched.



Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

1902

June 27-30

- |                               |   |                      |   |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| 1. Robin.                     | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 30 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> | 30. Bobolink         | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 2. Wood Thrush                | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 31. Baltimore Oriole | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 3. Hermit "                   | 27 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 32. Blue Jay         | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 4. Wilson's "                 | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 33. Crow             | 28 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 5. Bluebird                   | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 34. King bird        | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 6. Chickadee                  | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 35. Wood Pewee       | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 7. Black & White Creeper      | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 36. Phoebe           | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>   |
| 8. Nashville Warbler          | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> (white pine woods)   | 37. Great Pewee      | 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> in village                         |
| 9. Blackburnian "             | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> (hemlock " )   | 38. Chipping Swift   | 28 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>8</sub> |
| 10. Black-thr. Green "        | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 39. Hummingbird      | 30 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 11. Christmas Sided "         | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 40. Kingfisher       | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 12. Maryland Gt. Thrust       | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 41. Hairy Woodpecker | 28 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   |
| 13. Oven bird                 | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   | 42. Flicker          | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 14. Scarp-billed Water Thrush | 28 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub> nest 6 young<br>many full grown.                                  | 43. Ruffed Grouse    | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                    |
| 15. Cat bird                  | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  | 44. Green Heron.     | 30 (D. C. Finch)  |
| 16. Red-eyed Vireo            | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 17. Yellow-thr. "             | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 18. Solitary "                | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 19. Warbling "                | 30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> feeding in pines<br>in village                                     |                      |   |
| 20. Cedar bird                | 28 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub> about pond.   |                      |   |
| 21. Barn Swallow              | 30 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>8</sub> breeding in old barn  |                      |   |
| 22. Dove "                    | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> flying high  |                      |   |
| 23. Scarlet Tanager.          | 28 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 24. Goldfinch                 | 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 30 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   |                      |   |
| 25. Chipping Sparrow          | 28 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   |                      |   |
| 26. Song "                    | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>                                   |                      |   |
| 27. Field "                   | 27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 28. Rose-breasted Grosbeak    | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |
| 29. Indigo bird               | 28 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 29 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> , 30 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>  |                      |   |

( Most of the birds above named  
were noted on the evening of the  
27<sup>th</sup> and the forenoon and  
afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup> on or  
near the country place of my  
friend Mr. D. C. Finch. The  
29<sup>th</sup> was rainy and we took  
only one short walk along the  
public road while on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
I left by the 10.22 a. m.  
train & returned to Cambridge.)

Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

1902.

June 28

Clear and cool with fresh north-west wind.

During a walk which I took, this afternoon, in <sup>nest of</sup> company with my friend D. C. French, we visited a small Sciurus molecul pond surrounded by woods and lying between two ridges of moderate elevation about half a mile to the north-westward of my companion's country place at Glendale. This secluded pool, less than a quarter of an acre in extent, shallow, and bordered by mud flats sparsely covered with wild grasses and various kinds of semi-aquatic plants had been formed, for the purpose of cutting ice, by throwing a rude, flowing dam across the corner of a brook ~~just where~~ at the point where it ~~last~~ emerged from a meadow and began flowing, between steep banks, down a decided incline. Just as we came out on its western shores, after passing through a wood road fringed with mountain Laurel in full bloom, I heard a Water Thrush chirping sharply. The next moment I saw the bird flitting about among some bushes at the edge of the opening. It held something which looked like a large grub in its bill but this did not prevent it from uttering its metallic note at short, regular intervals. It was soon joined by its mate, the male, I thought, who also chirped but less anxiously and frequently. Both birds approached us within a few yards and as they were in a good light I had no difficulty in identifying them positively as Louisiana Water Thrushes. After watching them for a few minutes we advanced and almost immediately discovered their nest which was within twenty feet of where we first saw the female bird. It contained six young well feathered and almost large enough to fly, although they all kept their eyes tight shut while we were looking at them,

Glandale, Berkshire County, Mass.

1902.

June 28

(no 2)

probably in the hope that they might by so doing escape our notice. They crowded the nest to its utmost capacity and the coloring of their upper parts—a deep, rich lead brown—closely matched that of the mud-colored leaves which formed its outer surface. It was the largest House Wren's nest that I have ever seen; indeed I do not think that the crown of an ordinary hat would have contained half its total bulk. It was also unusually conspicuous for the nest of a House Wren being placed in a low bank (scarcely two feet high) which the owner of the pond had dug in the hillside to obtain ground for his dam. This bank was vertical or even overhanging at several points but the birds had selected a place where it merely sloped at a steep angle and had built their nest on a slight projection or knob scarcely a foot above the level ground beneath and wholly unprotected from observation from above.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

July 4

Clear & rather warm with brisk N.W. wind.

During about an hour and a half (9.30-11 A.M.) spent in Mt. Auburn to-day I noted the following birds:-

1. Robin. - 1 singing, 3 seen.
2. Bluebird. - ♂ ad in oak near pond singing rather freely.
3. Chickadee. - One whistling phoebe
4. Red-eyed Vireo. - At least 6 different ♂♂ in full song.
5. Yellow-thr. " - Two ♂♂ in full song
6. Cedar bird. - Two pairs seen flying together & the note heard in <sup>place</sup> another.
7. Chipping Sparrow. - One heard singing, four seen.
8. Song Sparrow. - ♂ in full song on ridge just east of artificial pond.
9. English " - Five or six seen.
10. Crow. - Three together in large oak - a young bird heard cawing.
11. Browned Grackle. - Two young birds feeding in hoth near pond.
12. King bird. - Two pairs, one perched on oak, the other hovering over pond.
13. Wood Pewee. - Three singing; one of them was perched on a stone column.
14. Downy Woodpecker. - One heard.
15. Flicker. - One seen.
16. Chimney Swift. - One party of five, another of three & a single bird seen.
17. Kingfisher. - One flying about the long artificial pond. I could see no fish in it except large gold fish.

Birds noted  
in Mt. Auburn

The Phoebe's nest under the iron bridge is dismantled & evidently has not been occupied this year. I saw no Chipmunks.

Between our house and Mt. Auburn along Brattle St. I noted three Robins (singing), two Redstarts (singing), a Red-eyed Vireo, a Wood Pewee (singing in the big willows in Hubbard Park) and a Flicker (shooting in the Chest place).

Concord, Mass.

Bald's Hill

1902.

July 6

Morning cloudy with several light showers; afternoon clear & rather warm with S.E. wind. Evening cool.

I spent last night at the cabin. I was awake at daybreak this morning and for half an hour later but heard few birds singing, a Vireo, Phoebe, Black & White Cuckoo, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow and Maryland Yellowthroat being all those I now remember.

Birds

singing at daybreak.

In the afternoon most of the common birds sang freely but I heard neither the Robin nor the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. There were two Field Sparrows and one Chipping singing at the Farm and Red-eyed Vireos everywhere. A Solitary Vireo (the first that I have heard since May) was in full song in the Baer's woods (near the Spring) and a Yellow-throated Vireo on Davis's Hill. I heard three Tanagers singing and saw a flock.

Birds

singing in afternoon

Twice to-day I heard a Rose-breasted Grosbeak making that peculiar outcry which the bird appears to utter only during the breeding season when anxious for the safety of his eggs or young. On one occasion to-day his voice was mingled with the screaming of a Blue Jay which, no doubt, was at or near his nest. I noted his cry on the spot as follows: - hee - hee, hee - hee, hee - hee, hee - hee, hee - hee, hee uttered very rapidly in quick, almost piercing tones.

Notes of

Rose-breast

Grosbeak.

A Green Heron which I flushed this forenoon from a ditch in the Baer's meadow gave a croaking toc - toc - toc - toc - toc as it flew off. I have heard this cry hitherto as oc but the sound was unmistakable to-day.

Notes of

Green Heron

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 6  
(no 2)

As I was returning from a walk at 11 a.m., following the river path, I flushed a Woodcock on the south side of Ball's Hill from a dense bed of weeds by the side of the path directly in front of the new cabin. It flew only a few yards before alighting under an oak where it stood for a moment watching me and then rising a second time pitched down again still higher up on the hill side where I saw it run a few yards before it disappeared among some bushes.

Woodcock  
on Ball's  
Hill.

Swifts have been in our cabin chimney almost constantly this season since May 13. Although it is scarcely twenty feet in height a brick wood fire on the hearth below does not seem to disturb them in the least.

Swifts  
nesting in  
the Cabin  
Chimney

On June 21<sup>st</sup> we found a nest & 2 eggs lying on the hearth. It had probably been washed down by a heavy rain which fell the day before. To-day Gilbert looked down into the chimney from the roof and discovered that the birds had built a second nest which contained two eggs.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of last May I examined two Chickadee's nests on the shore of the river, one about 50 yards west of the cabin, the other some 75 yards to the eastward of it. Both contained eggs on that day. They were successfully hatched and the young left the nests early in June. I saw them in the nests on June 1 when they were 2/3 grown. Gilbert found them gone a week or so later.

Chickadee  
has two (?)  
broods.

To-day I discovered a nest in a birch stub directly in front of Gilbert's cabin. It evidently contained young for I saw one of the Chickadees enter it a number of

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 6  
(no 3)

Times bearing foot in her bill. On one occasion she had a large green worm, I think the larva of the insect that feeds on the leaves of the white maple. It is possible, of course, that this Chickadee is a new comer who has lost her earlier nest (or nests) but more probable, I think, that she is one of the birds who raised their broods successfully last month in this same immediate neighborhood although I have never hitherto suspected that the Chickadee is one "two-brooded".

The Bull Frogs and Green Frogs are as noisy as ever and last night a good many Golden Toads were uttering their discordant summer cry.

Frogs &  
Toads.

Mosquitoes are still very numerous. There are now are much more daring and venomous than the kind we have earlier in the season but unlike the latter they keep to the woods and seldom or never enter the cabin. Dear flies are also swarming this afternoon. They are very annoying when one is walking rapidly but soon depart when one remains motionless for a few minutes.

Mosquitoes.

Gilbert tells me that he saw a House Wren laying her egg this afternoon.

House  
Wren  
laying.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 12

Clear and rather warm with light S.W. wind.

Came to Concord by the late afternoon train. Saw a good-sized flock of Bobolinks from the car windows in Bedford and several small flocks flying over the river meadows when their liquid pink call note was almost constantly in my ears as we sat at supper in the cabin.

Ball's Tit

Bobolinks

Walking to Pine Park and Pine Ridge after supper I heard in full regular song 2 Vireos, a Cat-bird, a Worm Sparrow and two Song Sparrows. A Red-wing was singing fairly well and a Black & White Cuckoo sang six or eight times. Other birds were going up and singing on wing in every direction just after sunset. Gilbert tells me that a Robin sang near the cabin.

Birds singing  
at evening.

There seem to be a good many Quail this season and I hear them calling frequently but they do not seem to whin the bob-white nearly so much as usual.

Quail

A Green Heron rising from the marsh opposite the cabin late this afternoon, and apparently without being startled by anything, uttered a Cuckoo-like cue-cue-cue-cue immediately followed by a harsh, drawling Cā-ā-ā, cā-ā-ā-ā.

Notes of  
Green Heron.

Blue Frogs were bellowing lustily and Green Frogs tinging almost ceaselessly over the entire extent of the Great Meadows after dark this evening. There were also a few Garden Toads squeaking.

Frogs  
Toads.

Mosquitoes continue numerous & annoying.



Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 13

Cloudless with light S.W. wind. Warm at midday, morning and evening cool.

A few birds such as Pine Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Tanagers, Song Sparrows, Swamp Sparrows and Veery Sparrows sang freely and well at morning and evening and at rather frequent intervals through the day. A Black & White Creeper was also singing steadily at 8 a.m. A little later I heard a Chestnut-sided Warbler utter the normal spring song over in full, vigorous tones. A Cat-bird and a number of Oven-birds were singing at evening all but one of the Oven birds using the flight song which I also heard given this morning by a bird which which did not rise above the thicket from whence the notes issued. Veeries sang freely at morning and evening.

Birds still in song.

At evening I saw fully 200 Red-wings rise in a noble cloud from the wild rice at Brown Dam Rapids. They alighted in a solitary maple where they kept up a deafening clamor for several minutes, finally flying back to the wild rice again and apparently settling there for the night.

Red-wings going to roost.

The Swallows did not go to bed until fully 20 minutes after the Red-wings. I merely heard their chattering. I bet who saw the flock pass Ball's Hill thinks that it contained one 200 birds.

Flight of Swallows at evening

The Song-bird Wood Thrush was silent during my last visit to Ball's Hill but two birds were in full song this evening in the canopy grass (*Phalaris*) on the borders of the Brown Dam Rapids.

Wood Thrush

The Swifts have built a second nest in the Cabin chimney. It contained three eggs 5-day.

Swifts nest in Cabin chimney

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 13  
(no 2)

On June 21<sup>st</sup> I found the nest of the Great-crested Flycatcher at the farm, in the hollow branch of a small wild apple tree. The light was poor and I could not see into the cavity very well but the nest looked unfinished and, indeed, seemed to consist merely of a Phlox mass of dry grass. As I saw one of the birds fly to it bearing a leafy cherry in her bill I concluded, however, that there must be young. It seems that I was badly mistaken for on visiting the nest this afternoon I found that it was neatly lined with a profusion of feathers and contained four or five young which could not have been more than a few days old as they were very small and only just beginning to show a tawny coloring of pinfeathers. The old birds were neither seen nor heard on this occasion.

nest of  
Myiarchus  
with young.

There were no less than eighteen Bats in the shed at the farm house this afternoon. George W. Allen who was with me identified them as the Large Brown Bat (Eptesicus fuscus). He caught several of them but they made no attempt to bite him. Many of them were young some of which were clinging to their mothers, none of the old females having more than two each and some only one. About half the total number present on this occasion were collected in a cluster, the others being scattered about singly something which I have never observed in this shed before.

Bats in  
shed at the  
farm

The three young Phlox in the nest in the flower house shed are fully two-thirds grown. Their father day for a few minutes was the cabin this evening.

Phlox

1902.

July 14

Clear and hot. Ther. 91° at 2 P.M.

At about seven o'clock this morning I saw one Ball's Hill Phoebe fly into the horse-stud, where she has a nest with 3 large young, bearing a good-sized dragon-fly in her bill. I could hear the young making a low chirping sound as the mother fed them.

Phoebe  
feeds young  
with a  
dragonfly

While waiting at the West Needford station to take the train for Cambridge I heard the following birds singing: - Robin, one; ~~Chipping~~ <sup>Chipping</sup> two (singing freely); Song Sparrow, two; Purple Finch, one (in full song); Baltimore Oriole, one (flitted over, only); Meadow Lark, one (in Parker's meadow).

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 20

Cloudy and cool with fine rain & fresh E. wind.

I went to Concord by electric this forenoon and spent the night at the cabin. The only birds heard singing at or near Ball's Hill were a Song Sparrow, 2 Grass Finches (one near W. Bedford Station, the other in Pine Park), a Cat-bird, a Red-eyed Vireo, and a Quail (on the West Bedford side of the river). At the farm I heard a Red-eyed Vireo, a Yellow-throated Vireo, a Tanager, a Chipping (sang only once), a Field Sparrow (singing brokenly & faintly), an Indigo Bird (in full song for an hour or more), a Black-birded Cuckoo, and 2 Quail (near together in the blueberry pasture across the road).

Birds still  
in song.

In a potato patch near the barn at the farm I found no less than four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, two adult males still in full plumage and two females, feeding on the larvae of the "potato bug" with which the vines are badly infested.

Rose-breasted  
Grosbeaks  
feeding on  
potato bugs.

Ten or a dozen Bluebirds, a somewhat greater number of Robins, several Chippies and Field Sparrows, one or two Song Sparrows, a Kingbird accompanied by two or three young, and two young Orioles were flitting about among the bushes in the blueberry pasture or in the neighboring field. In Brewer's pasture I saw upwards of a dozen Chippies hopping about on the closely-cropped turf.

Birds  
collecting  
into flocks.

Through the evening (i.e. from 8 to 10 P.M.) Bull Frogs belloved at long & infrequent intervals. I heard no other marsh voices & the silence was sometimes unbroken for 15 or 20 minutes at a time.

Frogs nearly  
silent.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

July 27

Cloudy and cool with light rain in P.M. Wind S.W.

Came to Concord by electric to-day reaching the Cabin at 10.30 A.M. In the afternoon walked to the farm; after supper to Pine Ridge.

Literally the only birds singing regularly and with vigor were Song Sparrows and Red-eyed Vireos, of which I heard two each. Cuckoos of both species sang intermittently and rather faintly. A Field Sparrow sang six or eight times (at the farm at 3 P.M.) and a Chipping one. A Flicker thrashed once and a Black & White Creeper sang twice at evening. At 4.30 P.M. the Phoebe at Benson's sang well for half a minute or more. I heard nothing else save a King bird indulging in his flight song at evening.

Birds still  
in song

I have seen five Barn Swallows in Concord this summer but to-night a fledgling flock, made up wholly of this species and containing fully 75 birds, passed over Ball's Hill towards the eastward, on the way, no doubt, to some roosting place.

Barn  
Swallows

When I was here a week ago the weather was cool and we had a fire in the cabin all the evening. The Swifts were not in the chimney the next morning but one of them was sitting on the nest when we arrived the forenoon.

Swifts

The Bull Frogs are quite silent this evening but - hear the Green Frog every now & then giving a single ting.

Frogs

Cambridge, Mass.

1902

July

With the exception of a single day spent at North Scituate and several Sundays at Concord I was in Cambridge through the entire month. The weather has been almost uniformly cool and during much of the time uncomfortably so and there have been very many cloudy days as well as frequent rains but almost no thunder showers. The birds have sung less freely than usual, especially during the latter half of the month. No northern species have appeared and I do not think that many of our local birds have departed for the South.

The following species have been noted in our garden: -

Garden Birds

1. Turdus fuscescens. - One in our mulberry tree on the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup>. I had a good view of it & am sure of the identification.
2. Merula migratoria. - Constantly present feeding on cherries & mulberries. Robin roost in the Garden.  
Not often seen on the lawn after the middle of the month. These birds (all young in spotted plumage) come down one of our chimneys, each by a different place, and were found dead or dying in closed & unventilated rooms.  
On the evening of June 16<sup>th</sup> (at 8 o'clock) Gilbert started about 25 Robins from the lilacs immediately behind our house. I was away during that month but returning on the 30<sup>th</sup> found that the birds had established a small roost in these lilacs to which they have come regularly, and in ever increasing numbers through the present month (July). As the bulk of the flight arrives at a time when we are taking supper at a neighbor's I have not been able to follow it closely but the birds seem to come from every direction and from considerable distances.  
On the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> I counted 127, nearly as many more must have got in since. I think there must be now (at the close of the month) fully 400 or 500.

Cambridge, Mass.

Garden Birds

1902

July  
(no 2)

3. Galuscoptes carolinensis. - The pair of Cat birds have remained through the month. The male has sung but very little and as a rule only feebly and brokenly, although he was in full voice on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Young of the first brood were seen (never more than one at a time) in the garden on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>; those of the second brood left the nest on the 28<sup>th</sup>. I think there must have been several but I never saw (nor heard) more than one at any one time. The first nest was built in a small tree just behind the house about five feet above the ground; the second soon then five higher & eight feet distant in the top of a Syringa. The young Cat-birds of both broods were very noisy for a week or more after leaving the nest, calling almost constantly for food uttering a monotonous tsi, tsi, tsi very like the chirp of a young Warbler. The parents were anxious & bold coming close about us whenever we approached the young crying wack, wack & sometimes swelling a short, harsh screaming sound. During his first singing period, in May & early June, the male Cat-bird mimicked the pee-e-e of the Wood Pewee and the paak of the Hairy Woodpecker frequently & very perfectly. Not once during this time did I hear him give the imitation of the song of the Wood Thrush or Bobolink both of which were most correctly uttered last year; but twice in July of this year he gave in my hearing a full bar of the Wood Thrush's notes thus showing that he must be the same bird which bred here in 1901.
4. Sialia sialis. - W. Deane heard a ♂ warbling over the Garden on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
5. Parus atricapillus. - I heard one whistling "phaser" on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
6. Dendroica aestiva. - Present through the month. Heard singing feebly & brokenly nearly every day.

Cambridge, Mass.

Garden Birds

1902.

July  
(no 3)

7. Setophaga ruticilla. - Present through the month and heard singing almost daily, vigorously and well up to the 15<sup>th</sup>, afterwards in feebler, hoarse tones. I saw the pair which breeds regularly in our garden feeding nearly full grown young later in June but all the birds seen in July appeared to be adults, and I think the singing has been done wholly by a fine old male. This bird was without a tail & otherwise ragged & disfigured - looking on the 21 and 24. (I heard him in full song in the garden at 7 a.m. on August 1).
8. Vireo olivaceus. - Constantly present. In full, regular song up to the 22<sup>nd</sup> & heard again on the 29<sup>th</sup> (the song did not possess its normal vigor & fervor after the 20<sup>th</sup>).
9. Vireo flavifrons. - In full, vigorous (but not always sustained) song on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup> of the month.
10. Vireo gilvus. - One heard singing on the 12<sup>th</sup> and another building on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The species has been positively rare throughout Cambridge this year & has not, so far as I am aware, been anywhere in the immediate neighborhood of our place.
11. Sporus tristis. - Noted in the garden on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Only adult birds seen, usually singly, occasionally in pairs. In full song on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>.
12. Sporus fasciatus. - Seen at frequent intervals up to the 27<sup>th</sup>, usually singly, occasionally 2 or 3 together. In full song up to the 16<sup>th</sup>, singing feebly on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

July.  
(no 4)

Garden Birds

13. Zamelodia ludoviciana. - An adult ♂ in full song on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (late dates for singing). One seen on the 12<sup>th</sup> and one feeding on milkberries on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
14. Dolichonyx orizivorus. - One heard singing overhead on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
15. Petarus galbula. Single birds, both adults & young, seen or heard every few days. In full song only twice - on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>.
16. Tricabro g. aeneus. - Noted on the 1<sup>st</sup> (6 birds) 2<sup>nd</sup> (8 birds) 3<sup>rd</sup> (10 birds) 7<sup>th</sup> (heard) 11<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>.
17. Corvus americanus. 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>.
18. Tyrannus tyrannus. - On the evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> a King bird performed its song flight over the garden. I saw another three on the 29<sup>th</sup>.
19. Cortophas veris. - One singing in the lindens on the 18<sup>th</sup>. It was no doubt the same as a bird that I heard daily in the big willows in Hittwood Park from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.
20. Trochilus columbis. - Only two noted, one on the 7<sup>th</sup>, the other on the 30<sup>th</sup>, both either females or young birds. I cannot understand why Hummers have visited our garden so seldom these past two or three summers. We have an abundance of the flowers that they like best.
21. Chaetura pelagica. - Flying over the garden nearly every morning and evening usually singly or in pairs, not infrequently four or

Cambridge, Mass.

Garden Birds

1902.

July  
(no 5)

- (21. Chaetura pelagica) five together, on one occasion (the afternoon of the 28<sup>th</sup>) in a flock containing fully thirty birds. I have seen no Singers descend into chimneys in our neighborhood for several seasons past and am inclined to think that the birds above mentioned came from more or less distant localities merely to feed over the city.
22. Dryobates pubescens. A female seen in the Garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and another on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A bird heard there on the 30<sup>th</sup>. When, by the way, do these July Downies come from?
23. Colaptes auratus. - One heard "shouting" on the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. One seen on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. A pair built a nest in the dead top of one of the tall apple trees near the gate on Brewster Street but if they reared their young the latter were never seen to us. The nest was begun as early as March 28 and the birds were seen at or near it through April.
24. Coccyzus americanus. - The long call (a succession of calls) heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> the cooing on the 10<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. (The about ten o'clock on the night of the 9<sup>th</sup> Walter Deane heard a bird cooing continuously for an unusual length of time. Sometime after it began he began to count the repetitions of the note making the last 85. These coos a coo-coo-coo were given at each repetition
25. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. The prolonged call heard on 2 and 9<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.
26. Megascops asio. 28<sup>th</sup> (evening) 29<sup>th</sup> (9 P.M.) 30<sup>th</sup> (before daybreak) 31<sup>st</sup> (7 P.M. at Mrs. Scudlors' Buckingham Street)

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

July  
(no 6)

The following species were noted in the Botanic Garden during brief visits made in the late afternoon:-

Birds in  
Botanic  
Garden

1. Merula migratoria. - 2 <sup>3rd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 6 or 8 birds, 10 <sup>2</sup> 11 several 26 <sup>12</sup>
2. Dendroica aestiva. - 2 <sup>1st</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 3, 1 juv 10 <sup>2</sup>
3. Setophaga ruticilla. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>
4. Vireo olivaceus. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 10 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 11 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>
5. " flavifrons. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 10 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 11 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 26 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>
6. " gilvus. - 11 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>
7. Spinus tristis. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 10 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>
8. Spizella socialis. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 10 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 11 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 26 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> several group.
9. Melospiza fasciata. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> 11 <sup>1st</sup> <sub>chasing</sub> 26 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> (in full song) Observed on each occasion in dense shrubbery bordering highway.
10. Passer domesticus. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub>, 10 <sup>th</sup>, 11 <sup>th</sup>, 26 <sup>th</sup>. Six to a dozen birds on each occasion.
11. Zamelodia ludoviciana. - 2 <sup>2nd</sup> <sub>\*</sub> (in full song) for over an hour / 10 <sup>1st</sup> <sub>chasing</sub>.
12. Quiscalus sp. cinereus. - 10 <sup>3</sup> 26 <sup>5 or 6</sup>
13. Icterus galbula. - 26 several
14. Tyrannus tyrannus. - 11 <sup>1</sup>

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

July

(no. 7)

15. Contopus viridis. - 2' 10" 11"

16. Empidonax minimus. - 10' pin

17. Coccyzus americanus. 2' wing. 11"

18. " erythrophthalmus. - 10"

19. Colaptes auratus. - 11'

Birds in

Botanic

Garden

Near Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

July 28

During a walk through Payson Park, Belmont, this afternoon, I noted the following birds:—

1. Hirundo erythrogaster. — One flying in company with Swings. Payson Park
2. Cyanospiza cyana. — One heard chirping anxiously in thicket
3. Cyanocitta cristata. — " " screaming, another seen.
4. Sturnella magna. — " in full regular song in grassy field.
5. Chaetura pelagica. — A flock of thirty flying over the lake.
6. Falco sparverius. — One flying over the lake pursued by a Kingbird
7. Colinus virginianus. — " whistling bob-white on W. side of Reservoir.

" 29 At Fresh Pond this afternoon I noted:—

1. Melospiza fasciata. — One in full song at entrance to Kingsley Park. Fresh Pond
2. Ceryle alcyon. — One sitting on rail of fence at Hurdock Pond.

Falco sparverius. One seen flying over Beattle Stand just to the eastward of Elmwood (opposite the old Wells place). It was pursued by a Kingbird

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

August

The average temperature during this month has been almost if not quite as cool as it was through July but we have had a few uncomfortably warm days. The nights without exception have been cool. There has been more bright, sunny weather than there was in July and much less rainfall.

I have spent practically the entire month in Cambridge but I have visited Concord nearly every Sunday and have devoted several days to taking photographs in Belmont, Watertown and the Fresh Pond Swamp. When on the 28<sup>th</sup> I went to Ipswich for the day.

The month has been remarkable for the almost total absence of any indications of bird migration. The only species which I have noted which, without question, had come from farther north were the Water Thrush which appeared in the Garden on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Night Hawk of which a large representation was seen flying over one place on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> and again the following evening. It is probable, however, that a Wilson's Thrush seen in the Garden on the 20<sup>th</sup> and two Black & White Cuckoos observed in the same locality on the 18<sup>th</sup> were also migrants from more northern summer haunts.

Hemmingbirds have been infrequent visitors to the Garden this summer and I have noted them there only four times during the present month. On the 27<sup>th</sup> I saw two together near Swett's Pond, having over a bird of, Impatiens.

The Night Heron appears to have almost if not quite deserted the Cambridge Region. At least I have heard none this year, but I saw a large bird which I took to be a Night Heron flying over the Garden on the evening of the 28<sup>th</sup> as twilight was falling.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

August  
(no 2.)

The following birds have been noted in the Garden:— Garden Birds.

1. Murela migratoria.— Present daily in varying numbers feeding chiefly on worm cheries, also running about on the lawn. Robin roost  
Adult birds heard singing freely on the 6<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.  
One in full song for a few minutes on the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
The roost in the hedges behind the house has been frequented regularly every night and by a considerably larger number of birds than was present at any time earlier in the season.  
On the 1<sup>st</sup>, I counted 230; on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 520; on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 300.  
The counts included only the birds which could be seen entering the roost from the east, west and south; as the greatest number seemed to come from the north and as very liberal distractions were made to allow for birds seen near the house over I have little doubt that the total number has frequently exceeded three or eight hundred. A few birds begin to assemble in the Garden as early as 5 P.M. but the greater number do not arrive until after sunset. The first comers alight in the tops of the apple trees or visit the pond for a while; then those come after sunset spend but little time before entering the roost and at the height of the rush very many dash directly into it without pausing by the way. There is usually a period of five to eight or ten minutes during which they move in almost without cessation & in such numbers that it is impossible to count them accurately. During this time the tops of the bushes are agitated as if by a strong wind and there is a constant sound resembling that of heavy rain drops pattering on the foliage. This is caused partly by the fluttering of the birds' wings and partly by their bills which they snap loudly & repeatedly, no doubt threatening one another

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August  
(no 3)

Robin roost  
in Garden

for there is evidently much bickering & jealousy in regard to the choice of perches. Before it has become quite dark these birds close and after the roost has become quiet and the birds are settled for the night one may walk quietly and rather noisily along the flagging path that passes through the hives without disturbing them. Few birds which assemble in such large numbers are so little subject to panics. Indeed all these Robins usually come in and take their places without signs of fear or anxiety but their chattering the present month there has been a general alarm sounded among them as late as 9 or 10 o'clock and on one occasion it was quickly followed by the roar of wings as large numbers took flight nearly at once. I was unable to ascertain the cause of their flight but it may have been due to the approach of a Screech Owl which we frequently heard working in the Garden at about this time. With the first signs of daybreak the Robins begin to stir in the roost and to call to one another which during July the old males frequently sing. As soon as it is broad daylight they begin leaving - as they come - in detachments and singly. The pieces of excavation of the roost consume half an hour or more and some of the birds linger there, or in other parts of the garden, until after sunrise. I have had no opportunity for ascertaining how large an area of the surrounding country is drawn upon by the population of this roost.



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Garden Birds

(No 4) 2. Hylocichla fuscescens. - One in our mulberry tree on the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup>. I had a good view of it and am sure that it was a White-throated Thrush - probably a migrant from northern woods.

3. Galusceptes carolinensis. - Seen nearly every day through the month.

The pair of old birds were seen together on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, one of the old birds with a young one almost every day from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>. The young bird (there was but one I think) was fed by its parents up to the 13<sup>th</sup>. After this it seemed to shape for itself. It uttered the hopping or chirping call up to about the 20<sup>th</sup>. On the 24<sup>th</sup> it began calling wee like an old bird. The adult male Cat-bird has not been heard singing this month. The young of the first brood disappeared before the close of July & have not been seen since.

4. Parus atricapillus. - 2: 4: 10: 20: 23: 30:

5. Mniotilta varia. - On the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> two birds appeared together in one of the apple trees. Both were males & I think adults.

6. Dendroica aestiva. - 1: 2: 4: 5: 6: 7: 8: 9: 20:  
21: 22: 23: 24: 25: 26: 27: 28: 29: 30: All these birds heard singing once, I think, adults but their songs were feeble & listless. Probably our local birds departed about the 10<sup>th</sup> for during the following ten days no Yellow Warblers were noted here.

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(no 5) 7. Scirius noveboracensis. - Arrived on the 19<sup>th</sup>; after this it was heard chirping, usually in the lices, on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. I do not think that there was more than one bird in the garden on any of these occasions.

Garden Birds

8. Setophaga ruticilla. - An adult ♂ in full plumage, evidently the bird which bred here this season, was singing in the lices or in the garden nearly every morning up to the 24<sup>th</sup>. Sometimes he sang only a few times in the early morning but on other heard him at short or frequent intervals up to 8 or 9 a.m. and occasionally in the late afternoon, also. On most of these occasions he was in full, vigorous song, especially towards the close of his day. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he was accompanied by two ♀♀ (or young ♂♂).

9. Vireo olivaceus. - Present up to the 28<sup>th</sup>. For an hour or two after sunrise a male - always, I think, an old bird - sang more or less freely & frequently but more with the full vigor of spring.

10. " flavifrons. - Heard singing nearly every morning up to the 31<sup>st</sup>. The bird's voice was as full and strong as it ever is at any season but his notes were uttered at much wider intervals than in spring and frequently only one form of note would be used during the entire period of singing which was usually confined to the early morning.

11. Ampelis cedrorum. - Present through the month and heard almost daily. As a rule only one or two birds were noted at any one time. They were evidently attracted to the garden by the Green Cheries. They also fed freely on larvae of Elm Sawfly Beets.

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(No. 6)

12. Piranga erythromelas. - A bird in green plumage seen in the elm which stands in the circle in our driveway on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It called chip (without the chunt) several times & then flew off.
13. Spirus tristis. - Adult birds seen in the garden almost daily, usually singly or in pairs, sometimes as many as three or four together. They came to feed on the seeds of the sunflowers. The males sang fully at times.
14. Corporaco purpurea. - One heard calling in the garden on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The only occasion on which the species has been noted there before this year was May 17<sup>th</sup> when I saw a ♀ on the ivy.
15. Spizella socialis. - Seen at frequent intervals through the month, singly or three or four together, sometimes in the garden itself, often on the ground under the bushes or on the lawn. No singing this month.
16. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - The pink calls of birds passing over the garden, usually high in air, were heard on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. In nearly every instance this happened at some time between 7 and 9 a.m. and invariably the birds indicated that the birds were moving southward.
17. Icterus galbula. - Although Orioles were seen in the garden at frequent intervals throughout the month I did not once hear the full song of an old male. At 6 a.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> there was a single loud single call & on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> some fuller, broken song notes. At evening a few Orioles came to the lilacs with the hooded Robins.

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- (187) 18. Luscinia s. cinerea. - Single birds appeared on the lawn or at the pond very few days. On the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> a flock of 12 birds and another of 15, passed over the garden flying westward.
19. Cyanocitta cristata. - Walter Dean heard a Jay in the garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and two birds descending there at the same moment on the 6<sup>th</sup>. On the 12<sup>th</sup> I heard one in the lindens.
20. Corvus americanus. - The only Crow mentioned in our garden notes for the month is one that Walter Dean saw on the 19<sup>th</sup>. I am very sure, however, that I heard birds coming overhead or in the distance on several occasions.
21. Tyrannus tyrannus. - Two flying low over the garden on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
22. Contopus virens. - One singing in the lindens on the 5<sup>th</sup> and another on the 27<sup>th</sup>. On the 21<sup>st</sup> I heard one in Dr. Wyman's willows and on the 24<sup>th</sup> one in the pines on the Smith place (North Street).
23. Trochilus colubus. - Noted only on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. - a single white-throated bird on each occasion. I cannot understand why so few Hummers have visited us this summer. The garden is filled with the flowers they like best & I hear that they have been numerous elsewhere in the neighborhood of Cambridge. I saw two in the Fresh Pond Swamp on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
24. Chaetura pelagica. - Seen flying over the garden late in the afternoon of nearly every day throughout the month. Ordinarily only two or three were seen but 8 appeared together on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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- (no 8) 25. Chordeiles virginianus. - On the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> and again the following evening a single Night Hawk spent fifteen or twenty minutes drifting about over the garden in company with Chipping Swifts.
26. Dryobates pubescens. - I heard the call note of the Downy in the Garden on the 12<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
27. Colaptes auratus. - Flickers have been seen or heard at frequent intervals throughout the month. On the 1<sup>st</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> one was heard flitting in fairly full leafed trees.
28. Coccyzus americanus. - The full song of this Cuckoo was heard once at 6 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, twice at 10 a.m. on the 7<sup>th</sup>, twice at 6 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>, once at 2 P.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup>, several times at 3 P.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup> and once at 8.30 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A bird cooed at frequent intervals from 7 to 10 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6 a.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and at 3 P.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
29. " erythrophthalmus. - The full song heard once on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> - on the latter occasion at 5 P.m. On the 30<sup>th</sup> about half the normal number of notes were heard at 9 a.m. No cooing heard during the month. This species seems to be less noisy in August than the Yellow-bird.
30. Megascops asio. - One heard working in the Garden about 9 P.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup>.
31. Nycticeius g. naevius (?) - Saw a large bird which I took to be a Night Heron flying over the garden on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>.
32. Lanius argentatus. - Walter Dunn saw one flying over the Garden towards Fresh Pond on the afternoon of the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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August  
(189)

At some time before daylight on the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> I was awakened by the creaking odor of a Skunk which penetrated through the open window of our bed room. At 7 a.m. I found the animal in the area in front of the cellar window at the north-east end of the house. It was curled up asleep on the ground at the bottom of the area into which it must have jumped or fallen during the night. When I advanced to the edge it awoke and looked up at me with much anxiety but with no expression of alarm from a mouse. It was a young Skunk about two-thirds grown and largely white with a white stripe running down the center of the forehead and a pure white tail. It had dug dozens of holes in the lawn evidently in search of grubs or beetles and I found where it had entered the garden by scraping a shallow trench under the wire fence. It remained curled up & sleeping quietly during the entire day and at evening when twilight was falling had not fairly awakened. No trace of its pungent odor was observed by us during the day or indeed in the evening after dinner.

During the second night we smelt it again strongly in one chamber but by the second morning the scent had again disappeared. It had eaten a Robin which I had found dead on the lawn & thrown into the area. It remained sleeping through the second day & departed the ~~third~~ night climbing out of the area by means of the wire screen which was fastened with dirt and scraping another hole under the wire fence.

During the first day there were a number of Loads of various kinds in the area. I saw one of them climb up on the Skunk's back. He killed them all the following night but did not eat any of them. Before departing he ate two *Pigeon* eggs & one of two *Hens* eggs which I had put in the area.

A Skunk  
in the  
Garden.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

August 3

Clear & warm with light W. wind.

Went to Concord by electric this morning reaching Ball's Hill about 10.30 and spending the night at the cabin.

Walked to the farm in P. M. returning by way of Birch Field and Davis's Hill. Strolled to Holden's Hill after supper. Birds apparently scarce and very silent. Not a single species singing with any regularity or frequency but Song Sparrows, Cuckoos (6 or 7 species) and Quail still in good voice when heard at all. Two Red-eyed Vireos singing feebly & brokenly. Heard a Dove coo twice on Pine Ridge and shortly afterwards saw it flying about in circles over the trees accompanied by another bird of the same species, probably its mate.

Birds still  
in song

At evening saw flocks of 200 Red-wings come into the bed of Mill River near the entrance to Beaver Dam Bog. They arrived in small flocks and made a great chattering as they circled over the reeds before alighting.

Red-wing  
roost.

The Swifts nest in the cabin chimney had 2 eggs on July 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 when we next examined it on the 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the three eggs were still unhatched but to-day there were 2 eggs & 1 young bird apparently only a day or two old. This would indicate a period of incubation considerably more than three weeks. We had a hot fire in the cabin on the afternoon & evening of July 27<sup>th</sup>. The old birds are apparently both in the chimney as I am writing this (9 P. M.). Every few minutes I hear the rumbling sound of their wings & occasionally their soft, liquid twittering. The young bird also makes a squeaking outcry very now & then... no sounds whatever from the nest after dark this evening.

Swifts

4 eggs & 1 bird  
seen. 27

Concord, Mass.

1902.

August 4

Clear and warm with light west wind.

Spent the early part of the morning at Ball's Hill returning to Cambridge later in the forenoon.

The only bird singing near the cabin at sunrise was a Red-eye. He was in nearly full voice and I heard him at frequent intervals up to 9 a.m. From 8 to 9 a.m. a Song Sparrow sang vigorously and well at regular intervals. A Robin, also, was in full song for about fifteen minutes shortly after seven a.m.

Birds in song.

I am nearly certain that I heard a Canada Warbler in the pines on the top of Ball's Hill this morning.

Canada Warbler(?)

The cawing of Crows was an almost constant sound through the early morning. The birds seemed to be scattered about everywhere. They have not been so noisy before since the early spring.

Crows exceptionally noisy

After I went to bed last night I heard the trumpeting of Green Frogs at wide intervals. The Bull Frogs seem to have become wholly silent.

Green Frogs.  
Bull Frogs silent.



Concord, Mass.

1902.

August 9

Brilliantly clear and rather cool with fresh N. wind.

C. & I came to Concord by electric this morning, dining at the cabin. Early in the afternoon two men, each accompanied by a setter dog, entered the marsh opposite Ball's Hill. They fired several shots in quick succession when I went to the landing to watch them. Presently one of them flushed and shot a Bittern. I then crossed the river and ordered them out of the marsh. They admitted that they were shooting Bitterns in mere wanton sport. They went off over the high forming land to the south firing at frequent intervals and no doubt slaughtering other harmless birds in defense of Bitterns. Strange to say they were good looking fellows of pleasant manners & not at all of the hoodlum class.

Ball's Hill.

gunners

shooting

Bitterns.

In the late afternoon C. & I walked to the farm. We had heard a Song Sparrow sing there and a Yellow-birded Cuckoo twice, near the cabin, but each bird seemed in the woods through which we passed. Just before sunset, however, a Minutella sang five or six times and a Least Flycatcher once near the farm house.

Birds in

song.

Across the road in the busy pasture a Golden-winged Warbler sang seven or eight times just as the sun was setting. I did not recognize him at first for his song consisted of a long succession of low, hoarse, chattering notes very unlike the zee-ing ones uttered in spring. He was in a well open place and I had a good view of his black throat & back before he flew off. He looked like a fully mature bird.

Strange song

of Golden-wing Warbler

A Screech Owl began wailing in the heavily wooded region near the Red Pines before sunset and after dark he came close about the house. There were no insect sounds after dark save those of one or two Tree Crickets in the distance.

Screech Owl

Insect

sounds.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

August 24

Morning clear and cool with strong N. W. wind. Afternoon cloudy.

Purdie, Gilbert & I went to Concord by electric starting at 9.30. Birds in  
A Red-eyed Vireo was singing freely well near the last Bedford station. Song.  
The woods about the cabin were as silent as the grove and we  
saw no bird there save an Oven bird.

Soon after entering the cabin we heard a Swift rumble in Chimney Swift  
the chimney. Looking up the flue I saw the wings & tail of a  
Swift projecting over the edge of the nest. There were really two birds  
a young & an old one. The latter soon flew out leaving the young  
bird which appears to be nearly full grown. It was hatched between  
July 27 - when we saw all their eggs in the nest - and August 3  
when one egg had hatched - the other two were infertile. Hence it  
has already been in the nest more than three weeks. No doubt  
the mother bird was feeding it when I first looked up the flue  
to day but, as I have already said, I could see only a tail  
& pair of wings. He has had a good fire in this chimney several  
times since the young Swift hatched. Young remains  
in nest over  
three weeks.  
Not injured  
by fire.

At 3 P.M. Purdie & I started for the farm. On the  
way we saw no birds save a flock of Chickadees. At the  
farm I heard an Oriole singing freely and Towhees, Brown Thrushes,  
a Cow-bird, & Song Sparrows ~~chattering~~ just before sunset.

After dark a prolonged, choking or gasping (or perhaps I should say whining), cry came a number of times from the open field in front of the house. It suggested the wail of a Secret Owl in the bush was louder & less tremulous. I attributed it to a Screech Owl. Visit the  
farm  
in the  
confield.  
But this was a mere guess for the sound was quite new to me, nor have I ever heard a Cow. Something is stealing  
our corn by wholesale eating it on the cob without removing the  
ears from the stalks.

A Screech Owl visiting near house at 10 P.M. The cricket is full singing.

Belmont, Mass.

1902.

August 16

Forenoon partly cloudy; afternoon clear. Rather warm with light N.W. wind.

Spent the day in Belmont taking photographs, walking across country from Spring Street to Waverley, visiting the Men Orchard, hunting at the Spring near Marsh Street. Birds fairly numerous especially Chipping and Cedar Birds in the Cedar pastures. Came upon one large winged flycatcher among red cedars. It included several Black-throated Green Warblers, two Chestnut Warblers, two Yellow-throated Vireos and ten or a dozen Chickadees.

Saw two Brown Thrashers in Marsh Street and saw a cypress Bawn Swallow perched on a telegraph wire near the Brown Farm.

A hawk was whistling oot-oot in Rock Meadow.

The region through which we passed to-day has changed remarkably little in the last thirty years. Nearly all the woods remain but the two hours of common increased in size. The greatest change is in the pastures where the cedars have so increased in size and numbers that many tracts formerly open have become dense cedar woods. The Chestnut woods have been thinned and many of the pines are dead or dying. There are two golf links in the pastures near Marsh Street. Almost no nest houses or other bird-houses have been erected.

Belmont, Mass.

1902.

August 26

Clear and warm with light S. W. wind.

Gilbert and I spent the day taking photographs about Rock Meadows skirting its southern and western borders and returning through the hills and past the nice ponds to Waverley.

The extensive, rocky, cedar-grown pastures border of the meadow were simply swarming with Starlings & Chipping Sparrows and the scattered hemlocks were doing their share with Robins & Cedar Birds. We also saw here a Night Hawk which flitted from a open rocky knoll & after flying a short distance alighted again allowing me to approach within thirty feet.

As we were eating lunch under the shade of a big red maple a Broad-winged Hawk flew down into a meadow where the grass had just been cut. Through my glass I made out all its characteristic movements with perfect distinctness. It was a fairly adult bird with broad white tail bands.

Later in the day we saw a young Red-shouldered Hawk perched on a fence post in the meadow north of the township.

At the eastern end of the Meadows we found a bog of downy woodpecker from a thicket by the roadside. They were surprisingly large for the season - fully two-thirds grown I should say.

East Watkinson & Ten Fish Pond Swamps.

1902

August 27

Clear & warm with light E. wind.

Gilbert and I spent the forenoon photographing in the region just beyond Mr. Anderson. It was swarming with English Sparrows and apparently almost wholly devoid of all other bird life. We heard two Red-eyes singing and several Song Sparrows chirping. There was a solitary Swamp Sparrow in the salt marsh at the mouth of Arsenal Brook. No Warblers were noted. Purple Finches were heard a few times.

A Green Heron was seen in the little pond just behind Mr. Anderson & another heard in the artificial pond near the mouth of Arsenal Brook. Two Kingfishers were flying about the latter pond, sounding their rattles.

The woods immediately behind the Catholic Cemetery remain as they have been these ten years. French's Hill is two-thirds gone but a few of the largest oaks remain. The cedar belt beyond has been cut into in places and many of the trees are dead or dying. The little pond behind Mr. Anderson is further than one for some picturesque clumps of willows have grown up about it.

In the afternoon we went by car to Hill's Crossing, walking thence to Smith's Pond. It has changed amazingly within the past fifteen or twenty years. Large willows standing singly & in clusters have grown up about it and everywhere around its shores cat-tail flags of the rankest kind have taken the place of meadow grass. The abandoned railroad track leading to the ice house is covered with a dense growth of Joe Pye Weed & Impatiens about which Hummingbirds were hovering.

Walked down through the swamps which are brilliant with masses of flowers chiefly Pycnanthemum, Juniper and Sambucus. Saw at least a dozen Kingbirds flying over the open marsh. The only large bird seen was a Green Heron.

Spurwich, Mass.

1902.

August 28

Forenoon hazy & at times cloudy, after noon brilliantly clear with light E. wind.

Spent the day at Spurwich driving down to the sand hills and driving at Woodbury's. The sand dunes have not changed perceptibly in general character or appearance during the past thirty years. The breeding place of the Least Terns (there is their former breeding place) looks exactly as it did in 1869 when I visited it and secured a number of the birds and their eggs. No terns bred there now but we saw two or three huddled (apparently Wilson's) fishing in the tide-rifts off the beach.

Some gunners were shooting at beach birds on the eastern shore of the sand dunes. Mr. Emerson, who is staying at Woodbury's, told me that a dozen or two of Peeps are considered a fair bag now. He says that several North-harbour Ptarmigan have been killed this week.

As we were starting the marshes a flock of about forty Semipalmated Sandpipers alighted near us on the margin of a salt pool among some wooden decays but there was no gunner there to disturb them. There & a few other straggles of the same species were all the wading birds that we saw.

Swallows were fairly numerous but widely scattered. I saw both White-bellied & Barn, the former in the greater numbers.

Savanna Sparrows haunted in the marshes & marshland banks occasionally flushed from the woods. In a cornfield we saw one numerous flock of Black-birds, all Mockers also I thought.

East Watertown, Mass.

1902.

August 30

Clear & warm with light S. W. wind.

Visited the Coolidge farm again this forenoon & took more photographs there. The woods immediately behind the Catholic Cemetery were so nearly devoid of bird life that all I could find in them was a single Chickadee; yet they used to teem with Robins, Vireos, Nuthatches, Wood Peckers etc. at just this season.

What can have banished these birds? Perhaps they are crowded out by the English Sparrows which rose in clouds as we threaded our way through the rows of cabbages, celery, corn etc. that bordered the edge of the woods.

About the shore of the little pond in the rear of Mr. Auburn I heard Song Sparrows chirping and saw a number of Chipping Sparrows and a flock of eight Purple Finches all in gray plumage. A Robin too was seen in Mr. Auburn's.

I fear that the midsummer flights of migrating Swallows have ceased to visit Cambridge. I have not seen a single bird passing over our place nor did I find any on the Church River marshes near the mouth of Arsenal Brook on the 27<sup>th</sup>. I cannot understand why they have so suddenly & apparently utterly - deserted their breeding.

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

Sept. 3

Brilliantly clear with light E. wind.

Awaking at about 4.30 a.m. I heard the single call of a Robin coming from the lilacs and at once went into the bathroom and took a seat by the open window. The east was bright with the coming dawn but there was so little daylight that I could see nothing distinctly in the garden. Nevertheless several Robins had already left the roost for I could hear them calling to one another from the tops of the latter trees in the "jungle". A few moments later five or six started from the lilacs with loud calls showing themselves dimly as they rose against the sky. Almost immediately afterwards three large detachments went off in quick succession each making a loud whirring sound of wings quite equal to that produced by a Strong Gey of Duck. As I could not see them in the gloom I have no idea how many there were but judging by the sound there must have been at least fifty in each detachment. They seemed to make straight off without rising above the trees. Single birds and small parties continued to follow them and the last bird disappeared shortly before 5 (at about 4.50). At this time it was scarcely broad daylight and the sun did not rise until half-an-hour later (5.27). Immediately after the main mob departed two or three old males began singing, keeping it up for a minute or two. Most of the single birds uttered the laughing cry on first taking wing but those of the heavy flights departed in silence save for the sound of their wings. A few birds lingered in the tops of neighbouring trees during the entire exodus but the majority, as I have already said, went straight off to a distance - towards the S. & W. E.

Robin roost  
in Garden.  
Departure  
of birds  
at daybreak



Bethel, Oxford Co., Maine.

1902.

Birds noted at or near Bethel.

Sept. 6-11

1. ✓ *Merula migratoria*. - 6<sup>12</sup> 7<sup>8</sup> 9<sup>12</sup> 10<sup>15</sup>
2. ✓ *Sialia sialis*. - 7<sup>(10)</sup><sub>(13)</sub> 8<sup>hd.</sup> 9<sup>(12)</sup><sub>(26)</sub> 10<sup>(19)</sup><sub>(18)</sub>
3. ✓ *Parus atricapillus*. - 7<sup>(10)</sup> 8<sup>hd.</sup> 9<sup>(6)</sup> 10<sup>10</sup>
4. ✓ *Regulus satrapa*. - 7<sup>(3)</sup>
5. ✓ *Sitta carolinensis*. - 7<sup>1</sup> ♂. 8<sup>1</sup> unband
6. ✓ " *canadensis*. - 7<sup>1</sup>
7. ✓ *Miniotilta varia*. - 7<sup>♂</sup> adult. full  
8. long thin.
8. ✓ *Helminthophila ruficapilla* 7<sup>(3)</sup>
9. ✓ *Setophaga ruticilla*. - 7<sup>♂</sup> ad
10. ✓ *Geothlypis trichas*. - 8<sup>♂</sup> ad
11. ✓ *Dendroica coronata*. - 10<sup>(6)</sup>
12. ✓ " *viriana*. - 7<sup>3</sup> 9<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>+</sup>
13. ✓ " *caeruleascens*. - 7<sup>♂</sup>.
14. ✓ " *blackburniana*. - 7<sup>♂</sup> juv 9<sup>2</sup>
15. ✓ " *striata*. - 7<sup>2</sup>
16. ✓ *Ampelis cedrorum*. - 6<sup>hd</sup> 7<sup>6</sup> 8<sup>hd</sup> 9<sup>hd</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 11<sup>1</sup>
17. ✓ *Hamula erythrogaster*. - 7<sup>4</sup> 9<sup>2</sup>
18. ✓ *Tachycineta bicolor*. - 7<sup>6</sup> 9<sup>4</sup>
19. ✓ *Vireo olivaceus*. - 9<sup>hd</sup> 10<sup>hd</sup> 11<sup>hd</sup>.
20. ✓ " *solitarius*. - 9<sup>hd</sup>.
21. ✓ *Spinus tristis*. - 7<sup>hd</sup>. 9<sup>hd</sup>.
22. ✓ *Poocetes gramineus*. - 7<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>12</sup>
23. ✓ *Passerculus savanna*. - 7<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>1</sup>
24. ✓ *Spizella socialis*. - 7<sup>(15)</sup> 9<sup>(10)</sup><sub>(20)</sub><sub>(30)</sub>
25. ✓ *Junco hyemalis*. - 7<sup>(3)</sup> 9<sup>(4)</sup> 10<sup>(6)</sup>
26. ✓ *Melospiza melodia*. - 7<sup>4</sup> 8<sup>2</sup> 9<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>6</sup>
27. ✓ *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. - 6<sup>hd</sup>. 7<sup>hd</sup>. 8<sup>hd</sup>.
28. ✓ *Corvus americanus*. - 7<sup>30</sup> 8<sup>6</sup> 9<sup>20</sup> 10<sup>30</sup>
29. ✓ *Cyanocitta cristata*. - 11<sup>2</sup>
30. ✓ *Tyrannus tyrannus*. - 9<sup>2</sup>
31. ✓ *Sayornis phoebe*. - 7<sup>5</sup> 9<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>4</sup>  
Audubon's
32. ✓ *Contopus virens*. - 10<sup>1</sup> me.  
Audubon's
33. ✓ *Chondestes pelagicus*. - 9<sup>1</sup> me.
34. ✓ *Colaptes auratus*. - 10<sup>1</sup>
35. ✓ *Ceryle alcyon*. - 6<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>2</sup>
36. ✓ *Prochilus colubus*. - 6<sup>1</sup> 9<sup>2</sup>  
20. 5<sup>1</sup>
37. ✓ *Buteo latissimus*. - 11<sup>1</sup>
38. ✓ *Bonasa u. togata*. - 6<sup>1</sup> 10<sup>1</sup>  
Elli's River
39. ✓ *Aix sponsa*. - 10<sup>2</sup> (Audubon's)

South Harwich, Mass.

1902

Birds noted at or near South Harwich.

Sept. 14. 20

1. *Sialia picilis*. - 15<sup>3</sup> 18<sup>10</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>
2. *Merula mig.* - 14<sup>(6)</sup> 18<sup>(12)</sup> 20<sup>(12)</sup> 21<sup>15</sup>
3. *Galuscoptes cal.* 14<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> <sup>Sugar Pond</sup>
4. *Harporhynchus rufus*. - 14<sup>1</sup>
5. *Parus atricapillus* 14<sup>2</sup> <sup>Small Pond</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>
6. *Dendroica nigrescens* 14<sup>3</sup> 15<sup>3</sup> 17<sup>3</sup> 20<sup>3</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup> <sup>Cotuit</sup>
7. *Ampelis cedrorum*. - 26<sup>(3)</sup>
8. *Spinus tristis*. - 15<sup>1</sup> <sup>1st</sup>
9. *Poocetes gramineus*. - 14<sup>3</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>4</sup>
10. *Passerculus savanna*. - 15<sup>20</sup> <sup>(at Great Island)</sup> <sup>Cotuit</sup>
11. *Spizella socialis*. - 14<sup>(10)</sup> 15<sup>(30)</sup> 18<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>6</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>
12. " *pusilla*. - 20<sup>2</sup> <sup>(at Cotuit)</sup>
13. *Melospiza melodia*. - 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>2</sup>
14. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. - 14<sup>3</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>
15. *Sturnella magna*. - 14<sup>(3)</sup> 15<sup>1</sup>
16. *Molothrus ater*. - 19<sup>(3)</sup>
17. *Cyanocitta cristata*. - 14<sup>2</sup> 15<sup>3</sup> 17<sup>2</sup> 18<sup>6</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>6</sup> 22<sup>6</sup>
18. *Corvus americanus*. - 14<sup>(10)</sup> 15<sup>6</sup> 18<sup>4</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>10</sup>
19. *Contopus virens*. - 14<sup>(12)</sup> 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>2</sup> <sup>(at Harwich)</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> <sup>Cotuit</sup>
20. *Anthostomus vociferans*. - 14<sup>1</sup> <sup>(in full bloom, about 20 upland birds of note, on evening trip before)</sup>
21. *Chordeiles virginianus*. - 15<sup>1</sup> <sup>at cur.</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> <sup>at Harwich</sup>
22. *Ceryle alcyon*. - 14<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>5</sup> 21<sup>2</sup> 22<sup>2</sup>
23. *Colaptes auratus*. - 14<sup>6</sup> 15<sup>5</sup> 18<sup>2</sup> 19<sup>4</sup> 20<sup>2</sup> 21<sup>6</sup> 22<sup>3</sup>
24. *Colinus virginianus*. - 14<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>(full grown birds)</sup> 20<sup>8</sup> <sup>1/2</sup> <sup>grown</sup>
25. *Bonasa umbellus*. - 14<sup>1</sup> <sup>ad.</sup> 15<sup>(3)</sup>
26. *Buteo borealis*. - 14<sup>1</sup> <sup>ad.</sup> 15<sup>2</sup> <sup>ad.</sup>
27. *Pandion carolinensis*. - 14<sup>1</sup> <sup>(Sugar Pond)</sup>
28. *Ardea herodias*. - 21<sup>(7)</sup> <sup>(Cotuit)</sup>
29. *Nyctanassa f. minor* 14<sup>1</sup>
30. *Ereunetes semipalmatus* 15<sup>1</sup> <sup>Sugar Pond</sup>
31. *Actitis macularia*. - 15<sup>1</sup> " "
32. *Gallus argentatus*. - 16<sup>1</sup> <sup>in 1/8</sup> <sup>in 1/8</sup>
33. *Sterna fuscata*. - 16<sup>(2)</sup> 18<sup>(4)</sup>
34. *Oedemia fusca* 16<sup>1</sup> <sup>ad.</sup>
35. *Gavia imber* 16<sup>1</sup> <sup>ad.</sup>

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Sept. 28

Ultimately cloudy & sunny with light shower in P.M. Of evening  
sunny. Heavy rain last night.

I came to Concord late yesterday afternoon and am  
settled at the cabin. Spent the forenoon setting out plants,  
chiefly blooming ones which I got at South Scituate a week ago.  
Went to the farm in the afternoon, returning just before dark.

I settle at  
the cabin for  
several weeks

The woods everywhere were swarming with Black-poll  
Waxwings. But they were most numerous among gray birches.  
Early this morning I heard one (no doubt an adult bird)  
give the full spring song over near the cabin, directly in  
front of which I found a dozen or more where I came  
down to breakfast.

Black-poll  
Waxwings in  
full song.

Besides the Black-polls I heard a Pine Warbler singing  
fully & several Black-throated Green warblers chirping.

Pine Warbler.

A Partridge was drumming at short, regular intervals  
on the stone wall at the east end of Noble's Hill and  
another at the foot of the run at the farm. I also heard  
five birds all together among some pines at the farm.

Partridge.

As I was passing Sun Field an Osprey appeared over  
it soaring in majestic circles at a considerable height.

Fish Hawk.

At 8 a.m. I heard a Lesser Yellow-legs. It uttered  
the single call a dozen times or more & seemed to be  
passing southward at no great height.

Lesser  
Yellow-legs.

Pat & Hanson saw three Deer at the farm about  
three weeks ago. One of them, a buck with large horns, was  
in the woods near Pulpit Rock, the other two, both does, were  
in the meadow at the foot of the orchard. All three  
seemed much at home. Deer have cropped my wild flowers at the  
cabin recently.  
The Tree Toads are in full chorus this evening.

Three Deer  
seen at  
the farm.

Tree Toads

1902.

Aug. 17

Brilliantly clear and deliciously cool with fresh N. W. wind.  
Ther. 56° at sunrise.

Gilbert & I took electric for Concord at 10 a.m. reaching the cabin at 11.45 and walking directly to the farm where we dined and spent the night.

A Robin sang for several minutes in Parker's orchard, West Bedford, at 11.30. He was an old bird and in nearly full voice. A Wood Pewee was singing lustily on Davis's Hill and a "Thelie" "shouting" furiously on the farm in the late afternoon. No other birds were heard singing even the Song Sparrows being silent.

In the Barrett run I started a pair of Tanagers from a high blackberry bush on the front of which they were no doubt feeding although I did not actually see them eat any of the berries as they flew before I caught sight of them. The male was an adult bird with black wings & tail and generally green plumage diversified, however, in several places on the underparts with patches of scarlet and orange.

Two Barn Swallows were flying over the farm at evening. Most of the Swifts seem to have already departed but two appeared about the farm house just before sunset & I heard young chattering & the rumbling of an old bird's wings in the flue that leads up from the parlor. We had a brick hard wood fire in this fireplace for several hours during two evenings & a morning only a week ago. Evidently a wood fire does not injure either old or young Chimney Swifts.

Cicadas are scarce, grasshoppers & crickets are not numerous. Insect *Acanthace vivax* is not in really full "voice" as yet.

Birds in  
song

Tanagers  
eating  
blueberries

Swifts  
not injured  
by fire in  
nesting flues.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Sept. 29

Cloudy & sultry with light N.E. wind and fine, mist like rain at intervals.

Spent the forenoon in the neighborhood of Holden's Hill. The woods there were alive with Black-poll Warblers among Black-poll which were a few Yellow-rumps. The Black-polls have two different notes at this season, a hissing call common to most Dendroica and a soft full toop very like the chirp of a Yellow Warbler.

Blue Jays were numerous and exceedingly noisy screaming Blue Jays, & imitating the cry of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

There were also a number of Crows which collected gradually Crows from all quarters of the compass & kept up a prodigious clamor in the trees on the hill top. I think they must have been working on Owl of some kind, probably a Great Horned.

As I was crossing the Conway at about 9 a.m., I discovered a large Snapping or Mud Tortoise making its way across the meadow in the direction of the woods. It was upwards of 100 yards from the river & perhaps thirty yards from the high wooded ground towards which it was progressing. I do not remember ever seeing one before seeing this upland at this season & I cannot imagine what could have been its object. It reminded me forcibly of an Elephant as it moved slowly through the grass walking at the full height of its thick fleshy legs & stopping every now & then to raise its head & look around.

In the afternoon I went to Davis's Hill & Pine Ridge. The upland woods were gloomy but the maple swamps ablaze with orange & scarlet.

Snapping  
Tortoise  
making an  
overland  
journey.

Maple swamps  
ablaze with  
color.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 1

Cloudy with N.E. wind and incessant rain, very heavy Prolonged  
in the late afternoon. Since September 23<sup>rd</sup> the sun has shown cloudy  
only once - for an hour or two about noon on the 28<sup>th</sup>. weath.

At the farm, where I spent the entire day, there were Birds at  
very many birds, chiefly Bluebirds, Chipping & Black-poll the farm.  
Wheats which drifted back & forth through the orchard  
occasionally visiting the elms about the house. With them  
were also a Nuthatch, a Downy and a very few Yellow-crope.  
A young Song Sparrow singing freely & boldly, two Towhees and  
a Cow-bird spent the day in the thicket of brooms near  
the well. Crows were heard coming & Blue Jays booming  
in the distance. Among downy downy pines I caught the first  
finch but with absolute distinctness the twitter of a Junco  
finch. I also heard a Brown Creeper & several Chickadees.  
Late in the afternoon I flushed a bag of 12 Quail Quail  
from down ploughed land on the borders of the Berry  
Pasture. No doubt they were the same birds which I shot  
in this pasture on August 24<sup>th</sup> last but on that  
occasion there were 16 in the bag.

At evening a flock of 17 Rusty Blackbirds passed  
over the house flying north-east. These Blackbirds  
have evidently failed to nest about this spot in the  
Cypress just ~~about~~ the Beane Dam Rapid where they  
assembled regularly by hundreds in the autumn of 1900  
& 1901. Probably they have deserted it because the  
large a part of the Button Bushes were carried away  
by the ice last spring.

A Partridge which I flushed this morning rose with a  
loud rattling sound instead of the usual whirr. I wonder  
if this was because his wings were wet!

Rusty  
Blackbirds.  
not roosting  
at Beane  
Dam this  
autumn.

Partridge's  
wings make  
rattling  
sound. 93

Concord, Mass.

1902.  
Oct. 2.

A clear morning at last followed by a sunny but partly cloudy, calm and oppressively sultry day.

At Ball's Hill in the early morning a Song Sparrow was singing and a Kingfisher sounding his rattles. Bluebirds were passing high overhead in different directions any little while uttering their sad call notes and occasionally warbling. Usually there were six or seven together and with them occasionally two or three much smaller birds which I took to be Black-poll'd Warblers but which may have been either Yellow-rumps or Chipping.

I paddled down river to Birch Island at 8.30 a.m. seeing no water fowl of any kind but hearing a Meadow Lark singing faintly & brokenly somewhere in the pasture on the W. Bedford shore.

On my way to the farm I heard Bluebirds & Black-polls almost continuously and every now & then a jarring Blue Jay flashed across the path. Near Pulpit Rock I came on a mixed flock containing besides the usual Chickadees & Black-polls a Downy and two Solitary Vireos, one of which made all manner of low, tender musical calls and once burst suddenly into full song keeping it up for nearly a minute.

As I was watching the Vireos I suddenly heard the booming Kik; kik; kik - heh - heh - heh - heh of a Cooper's Hawk. The bird was evidently within thirty or forty yards but he kept so closely concealed among the dense white pines that I did not get a sight of him. He repeated his outcry three or four times within the next ten minutes. I do not think that I have ever heard it before in the autumn. It was precisely

Birds at  
Ball's Hill  
in early  
morning.  
Bluebirds &  
Black-poll'd?  
flying in  
company.

Abundance of  
Bluebirds &  
Black-polls.

Solitary  
Vireos.

Cooper's  
Hawk  
calling  
in autumn.

1902

Oct. 2

(No 2.)

the same as during the breeding season. All the while that he was calling ~~two~~ Pigeons were drumming in different directions within fifty yards of the spot where I imagined him to be. Neither they nor the chattering Chipmunks, nor the small birds flitting about in the branches one was seemed to suspect or at least to regard the near presence of the merciless Accipiter. I saw neither him or another of his kind flying high over the farm house on horse later. My men say that he has been harrying the Pigeons of late and that he caught one of them (a white bird) a few days ago while on another occasion he frightened them so badly that the entire flock departed & were absent an entire day. Pat tells me that he alighted in one of the big elms that shade the house yesterday morning when the Pigeons dashed into the barn & wood shed among them until the Hawk departed.

Cooper's  
Hawk.

It was a great morning for Red-shouldered Hawks. During the entire forenoon, in fact, they were screaming as loudly and incessantly as I have ever known them to in early spring. I saw one soaring over Great Meadows, another started from a pine on Davis's Hill and two were flying together over Rich Island. At the farm I heard them, as I have just said, all the forenoon.

Red-shouldered  
Hawks  
numerous &  
noisy.

While at work in the orchard at about 10 a.m. I happened to glance up & directly overhead <sup>at</sup> an immense height were two Fish Hawks soaring in circles. They were so very high that they looked no larger than Pigeons.

Fish Hawks

As I was paddling up river at evening I saw them Musk rats & a small snake. The latter was crossing the river to Davis's Hill. It was nearly dark at the time.

Musk rats.



Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 3

A perfect autumn day, brilliantly clear & just pleasantly warm with light W. to N.W. wind.

Soon after breakfast I saw a Pigeon Hawk skimming across the meadow opposite the Coburns, just above the grass. On reaching the woods he rose above the trees & then began soaring, moving in small circles and rather hurriedly or, at least, with much less grace & deliberation than a Buteo. After mounting to a height of several hundred feet he drifted off towards the south-west until I could no longer follow him even with the aid of my glass. Apparently he was migrating but at the same time keeping a keen lookout for prey.

Pigeon Hawk

Half an hour later, as I was watching a Red-shouldered Hawk which was soaring over Holden's Hill admiring the infinite ease & dignity of his movements, five White-bellied Swallows suddenly came within the field of my glass. Without it I could not see them at all for they were high in air & flew half-a-mile off our Great Meadows. They seemed to be feeding.

White-bellied Swallows

Golden-crests appeared in force this morning. I saw them on Pine Ridge & no less than seven together in the woods at the farm. Two other arrivals were the Canada Nuthatches of which I heard two & the White-throated Sparrows of which I saw a fine adult.

Golden-crests,  
Canada Nuthatches &  
White-throated Sparrows arriving

In a small patch of sage at the farm I started a bevy of Quails I counted 15 as they flew off. There were certainly only 12 in the bevy which I saw on the opposite side of the road day before yesterday, yet I can hardly believe that there are two different flocks there.

A strong bevy of Quail at the farm.

Black-polls continue abundant.

I hear almost no Hylas although this weather is perfect for them. Hylas

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 4

Clear with light N. to N.E. wind. Cooler.

At sunrise this morning a Phoebe was in loud, full song near the cabin for half-a-minute or more.

Phoebe in full song.

About the same time a Pine Warbler on Ball's Hill sang twice giving the spring song but with fewer notes than usual. The loud, full quality of this bird's voice induces me to think that it was an adult.

Pine Warbler sings.

About 8 A.M. a Greater Yellow-leg passed the Hill flying south-west at a considerable elevation. All this I gathered from the sound of its voice for I did not see the bird at all.

Greater Yellow-legs.

At the Farm, where I spent the earlier portion of the afternoon, there were the greatest quantities of Bluebirds.

Abundance of Bluebirds.

I counted 17 in one flock and must have seen upwards of 40 in all, counting those noted at Ball's Hill & during the walk between the Hill & the Farm. At one time a dozen or more were assembled in one of the big elms where they clustered about a dead, upright prong clinging to the bark & quivering their wings, occasionally working in subordinated tones. Every now & then they would suddenly scatter as if panic stricken but a few moments later would begin retreating to the dead branch, often remaining there nearly motionless for minutes at a time. I have frequently seen them behave in a similar manner before at this season but why they do it I am at a loss to conjecture. There were several Yellow-rumps with this flock, and they were continually chasing, or being chased by, the Bluebirds.

This peculiar behavior in autumn.

I am very nearly-but not quite - sure that I heard a Hudsonian Chickadee in Prescott's pine this morning. It gave what sounded like the chip, chee-dee-dee tones but at times this came from me. I hurried to the spot but found only some common Chickadees.

Hudsonian? / Chickadee.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 5

Cloudy and mild with light S. W. wind and heavy rain all the afternoon.

Just before daybreak I was awakened by the hank of a Great Blue Heron repeated several times and startlingly loud. The bird was evidently flying very low down and directly over the cabin.

Great Blue  
Heron.

Fifteen or twenty minutes later Quail began calling. Some of them seemed to be close to the cabin, others on the opposite side of the river.

Quail at  
Ball's Hill.

I went to the farm in the forenoon. Saw two juncos & heard the distant calls of Bluebirds but there seemed to be but little animal life stirring.

In the afternoon I spent several hours in the Minkwood woods. It was raining heavily most of the time. The only wild creatures that I saw or heard were a cock Partridge & a Gray Squirrel. The latter was gorging over the ground carrying a chestnut over in his mouth and trailing his bedraggled tail over the wet leaves.

Scarcely  
visible life  
in woods  
during heavy  
rain storm.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 6

Early morning cloudy & showery. Remainder of day clear with strong S.W. wind changing to W. at evening. Weather oppressively warm.

Shortly after sunrise a Phoebe sang for a few seconds near the cabin. Soon after breakfast I saw a flock of 14 Cedar Birds flying over Ball's Hill towards the north-east.

Phoebe  
in full song.  
Cedar Birds

The Black-poll Warblers have practically all departed and I have seen no Chipping's for several days which Bluebirds seem to be less numerous than they were last week. Despite the beautiful warm weather this afternoon I saw or heard but very few song birds.

Flight of  
Blackpolls over  
Bluebirds  
departing?

In the forenoon I scouted about the grove of wheat in the field directly in front of the farm house. Just before sunset I went to the spot to see what it had attracted & to my delight observed a covey of Quail there. As they rose on the extreme edge of the field & at once disappeared among the bordering woods I could not count them.

Baiting a  
covey of  
Quail.

Gray Squirrels have wrought havoc in the corn field but the damage is less than I supposed it would be for they have confined their operations chiefly to the edge of the field nearest the woods. I saw five together there on Saturday & the same number this morning. Now that the corn has been "thinned" they seem to have ceased molesting it.

Gray Squirrels  
wrought my  
corn field

The Tree Creepers (Alcedo virens) are still in full bloom all night long

Tree Creepers

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 7

Brilliantly clear and just pleasantly warm with fresh west wind.

There were many birds in the woods to-day but not enough to indicate any considerable migration during the night. Just after breakfast I found a young Black & Yellow Warbler Black & Yellow Warbler. flitting about among some downy young pines at the E. end of Ball's Hill. It was uttering the characteristic finch-like chirp & this first drew my attention to it.

As I was crossing the spring beyond the Swamp a flock of 22 Crows came flying over it from the northward. Some of them alighted in the tops of the oaks on Davis's Hill, others scattered about over the pine meadows. I think this must have been a migrating flight just in from the north. Migrant(?) Crows again

One of the crows in the rear of the farm house appears to be dying and a Hairy Woodpecker visits it nearly if not quite every day. He (or rather she) spent an hour or more there this afternoon, working industriously at a rotten branch. I seldom see this Woodpecker in the orchard although it has plenty of decayed limbs. Hairy Woodpecker

In another elm tree beside the driveway a Solitary Vireo was singing at 10 a.m. Its notes were so fresh & broken that I felt sure it was a young bird. I also heard a Pine Warbler sing over or twice and the Cock Partridge drummed all the forenoon at the foot of the elm. Solitary Vireo

I found two Field Sparrows among some beech oaks on the edge of Green Field and flushed them Chippies in the orchard. Gilbert noted six or seven White-throated Sparrows & two Hermit Thrushes. He also saw a Goshawk in the river off Davis's Hill. I noticed only one Black-bellied to-day. Yellow-rumps were fairly common. Field Sparrows Chippies White-throated Sparrows Black-bellied Yellow-rumps

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 8

Brilliantly clear with fresh N. W. wind. Much cooler. There has been no touch of frost as yet but much of the foliage has colored and fallen & the grape leaves are withered & look as if they had been frozen.

As I was forcing my way through some dense oak scrub this morning I started two Partridges from the top of leafy young white oak about fifteen feet in height. I suspect that they were getting acorns among the branches. Just after breakfast I flushed two others on the south side of Ball's Hill, one of them within three or four yards of the stone wood shed.

Partridges  
eating acorns?

I heard three Towhees at the farm and saw a fourth at the east end of Ball's Hill.

Towhees.

Small Birds appeared to be scarce & I noted none of any peculiar interest but Gilbert reports seeing a Thrush which he took to be a Gray-chuck in Birch T-wid and a Yellow Palm Warbler by the roadside near Mrs. Ritchie's.

Small Birds  
scarce.

Yellow Palm  
Warbler.

At day-break this morning a Black Duck was quacking loudly & continuously near the cabin. About sunrise I heard a confused medley of voices of Rusty Blackbirds.

Black Ducks  
quacking near  
cabin.

At nine o'clock last night a Great Blue Heron made a great outcry in the marshes across the river uttering a long succession of loud and deep squeaks wholly unlike the flight over haints & nocturnal close to the sounds made by a colony of breeding Night Herons when disturbed. These cries I have often heard at night at Lake Umbagog when I have thought an Owl was harrying the Blue Herons.

Great Blue  
Heron makes  
loud outcry  
at night.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 9

Early morning cloudy & threatening; remainder of day brilliantly clear with strong N.W. wind. Warm at noon, cool at morning & evening.

At 8 a.m. a Black Duck passed the cabin, flying low over the river. About 10 a.m. Gilbert saw three Pink-billed Grebes swimming together off Davis's Hill. They were close in shore & although he thinks they must have seen him he got within ten yards of them under cover of the bushes.

Black Duck.

Pink-billed Grebes.

At evening, as twilight was passing into night, I saw a Great Blue Heron dimly blopping slowly along the corner of the river just above Davis's Hill. A few minutes later I heard two Night Herons grunting and still later the scrape of a flying Sandpiper.

Great Blue Heron.

Night Herons

Gilbert reports an immense flock of Crows - upwards of 200 he thinks. They were on the meadow opposite Black Island where they "fairly blackened the ground."

Large flock mig. Crows.

At the farm, where I spent the day, a Solitary Vireo was in full song in the elms near the house at 10 a.m. and a little later a Phoebe sang well for about half-a-minute somewhere in the rear of the barn. In the afternoon a Flicker skittered rather feebly twice. In Birch Field at sunset I heard the peck call of a Swainson's Thrush distinctly & very near me. There were a number of Rusty Blackbirds in Davis's Swamp this morning & among them at least one Crow Blackbird whose leaty or-ans with I heard too plainly for any mistake.

Solitary Vireo in full song.

Phoebe

scrape.

Flicker "Hunts"

Swainson's

Thrush.

Crow Blackbird.

Great

Horned Owl.

At 6 P.M. a Great Horned Owl hooted several times in the direction of Davis's Hill.

Titlarks are very scarce this autumn. I saw a single bird flying over the orchard at the farm to day.

Titlarks very scarce.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 10

Brilliantly clear with fresh N.W. in early morning falling to dead calm in early afternoon. A light frost last night & probability of a heavy one to-night.

A Black Duck was again quacking loudly near the cabin this morning at daybreak. About 8 a. m. I heard Greater Yellow-legs giving the ordinary flight call and also the rattling whistle which they utter when about to alight. Presently I saw these birds descending from a considerable height directly opposite the cabin. They flew off in the direction of Pond Island & I think alighted in Holden's meadow.

Black Ducks

Greater Yellow-

legs.

Small birds were apparently not about in any numbers. I saw a few Yellow-rumps, one or two flocks of Chickadees, two Kinglets, a Song Sparrow, a young Yellow-bellied Woodpecker (in the apple orchard at the farm), Sapsuckers, two Downies & one Hairy, a Flicker, six or seven Bluejays, two Titlarks (flying over Green Field), a flock of eight or ten Bluebirds (chasing one another & ranging with Yellow-rumps in the big elms at the farm) a few Rusty Blackbirds, & four Partridge eyes.

Small Birds.

Titlarks

Just before sunset a cock Partridge was drumming at short regular intervals at the foot of the sun at the farm. drumming. The evening was calm but the air was so frosty that it made my fingers ache. It is unusual for a Partridge to drum at this season under such conditions for in late autumn he usually performs only when the weather is especially warm.

Partridge

Gray Squirrels, Red Squirrels & Chipmunks swarm at the farm this autumn although the Chipmunks are perhaps less numerous than they were last year. Mice & voles are ~~seen~~

Squirrels.



Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 11

Forenoon sunny but hazy; afternoon cloudy; evening rainy. Light S.W. wind. Killing frost last night.

Shortly after breakfast I found a flock of twenty-five or thirty small birds in the young pines behind Hollis Hill. There were fully a dozen Chickadees, <sup>about</sup> as many Yellow-rumps, a Black-poll Warbler, a Solitary Vireo, and two Golden-crowned Kinglets. The Vireo was singing rather feebly and brokenly. It looked like an adult bird. There was also a White-throated Sparrow in the alders near these pines & I saw two Song Sparrows in front of the cabin & little cabin. At dinner I heard Rusty Grackles and while we were at breakfast a Red-throated Hawk was screaming.

On my way to the farm at 8.30 A.M. I started a flock of ten Rusty Blackbirds from Benson's corn field. In a windy place just beyond the corn then Chipping, a juncos and a Great Towhee rose all at once.

At the farm there were upwards of a dozen Bluebirds, a Phoebe, a number of Yellow-rumps and no less than three Downy Woodpeckers. Robins in small flocks were flying to & fro at intervals. A Lark whistled in the woods below the corn field. Crows & Juncos were calling in the distance.

It was nearly dark & raining gently when I started to walk back to the cabin. The woods seemed gloomy & full of mystery. As I was passing through Prescott's pines, descending the hill by the wood road, a Partridge started from a pine making a hunting sound as it flew off.

Partridge

A moment later a deep cough, cough (or ow, ow) came from the woods on my left. I think I have heard this sound before but I cannot be sure. Could it have been a crow or the Song-sparrow?

A thump right on

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 12

It rained steadily through last night and at daybreak this morning there was a strong North-east wind driving sheets of fine rain across the meadows. The rain ceased about noon and the sun came out about 3 P.M. The remainder of the afternoon was clear and died calm with oppressively warm, humid air.

At 11 a.m. as I was towing Mother T'axen across the river to the cabin we started a Coot from the reeds at the mouth of the boat canal. It alighted in the open water and when pursued kept well out of gun range, taking a succession of short flights and keeping near the middle of the river most of the time. We saw its white bill distinctly.

A Coot in  
the river  
opposite  
the cabin.

We started the beg of Larks in the orchard at the farm in the afternoon. They are remarkably wild after being, as they did on this occasion, thirty or forty yards off but nearly flying to the edge of the nearest cover.

Small birds appeared to be rather scarce & we saw nothing of any especial interest. There was a White-bellied Nuthatch in the orchard near the Arborvitae & another in Benson's elms.

Shortly after sunset we went to Holden's Hill. To my surprise we found a great number of Rusty Blackbirds in the old roosting place among the bottom bushes at the head of Beaver Dam Bog. Judging by the noise they made there must have been one hundred or more. These preserve their accounts for my having heard them passing the cabin in some numbers almost every morning lately.

Roost of  
Rusty Blackbirds  
reestablished  
at Beaver  
Dam  
Bog.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 13

Clear & oppressively warm with strong S. W. wind.

Soon after breakfast I saw four Hermit Thrushes together in the fringe of birches directly in front of the cabin.

Hermit  
Thrushes

On my way to the farm a little later I detected several Chipping and a Grass Finch in Benson's pasture.

Small birds

In our old orchard there were Bluebirds and a Flicker. Yellow Warblers were generally distributed and rather common consorting with the Bluebirds as usual. I saw one Black-bell Warbler - among Gray Siskins.

As I was walking through the lane on the farm I found a Partridge sitting on the budding Hawthorn within fifteen yards of me. I stopped instantly and the bird remained where it was for more than a minute showing no alarm but evidently regarding me with curiosity. It moved a little now & then and raised its head and tail slightly. Finally it jumped to the ground on the further side of the wall & disappeared. I crept slowly to the spot where it had been sitting & looked over the wall. At first I could see nothing of it but presently made it out standing erect & motionless on a fallen branch. Soon after this it flew to the woods. I have repeatedly found Partridges in the same spot this autumn. They are no doubt attracted to us by a profusion of ripe Concord grapes which are hanging in clusters from the branches of the trees & bushes that line the wall.

A remarkably  
timid  
Partridge

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 15

Brilliantly clear with fresh west wind. Very cool in the early morning.

On my way to the Farm this morning I heard Bluebirds & Yellow-rumps at frequent intervals. In Rich Field I came upon a little party of three Yellow Palm Warblers. Two White-throated Sparrows were near them among the gray birches. In the oak woods beyond this field I found a flock of Chickadees accompanied by a White-bellied Nuthatch. I heard another Nuthatch of the same species at the same moment calling in the distance and also in the same direction a Red-bellied Nuthatch. The latter was, I think, in the oaks in the rear of the old barn.

About 10 a. m. an Osprey passed over the orchard at a considerable height sailing on set wings towards the south-west.

On my return to Ball's Hill just before sunset I found about fifty (I counted forty-eight) Robins running about on the turf in Benson's pasture. As I was watching them a flock of eighteen Cow-birds passed me, quickly followed by two flocks of Rusty Blackbirds. All these were flying in the direction of the roost at Crane Dam.

Gilbert had a remarkable experience with a small Hawk which, from his description, I judge to have been a weak Sharp-shin. It was standing in the middle of the path near the Cabin with its wings half spread, their tips touching the ground. The tail widely spread also rested on the ground. It held a Robin in its talons. When it rose Gilbert chased it & it dropped the Robin which flew off strongly out of sight apparently unhurt. The Hawk lingered near the Cabin for some time.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 18

Cloudy & mild with light S. E. wind and a brief shower of rain in the early morning. Clear & cold last night with a heavy if not quite full moon.

A heavy flight of small birds must have arrived last night for the country was swarming with them to-day. By far the greater number were Yellow-rumps of which I must have seen fully 75. They were especially numerous in gray birch thickets and in the orchard at the farm. At one time a dozen or more were flitting close about the farm house several of them clinging to the eaves & one exploring the crevices between the slats of the blinds. Why do they do this only in autumn?

Grasshoppers were also abundant - for the first time this autumn. Most of them were feeding in the tops & upper branches of gray birches.

Fully 50 Robins were assembled in the field opposite the farm house where the chief attraction appeared to be a cluster of black alders covered with berries on which they were feeding. Some of the notes (all young birds I thought) sang rather freely but in subdued, almost whispering, tones. A Purple Finch was also singing softly at the same time & place.

Four Brownish Grackles appeared in this field about noon, alighting in the top of an apple tree & remaining there for several minutes.

Redwings were warbling softly near the house all the forenoon. There appeared to be at least a dozen of them scattered about through the orchard. I also saw three Chipping Sparrows besides a Downy & two White-throated Sparrows. In Prescott Pines I came upon a Hermit Thrush. There was a Dipped (P. *harpagifer*) floating on the canal near opposite the cabin this morning. Gilbert tells me that he saw one there yesterday also.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 18  
(no 2)

The most interesting and unexpected bird noted to-day was a Red-eyed Vireo which I found just before noon in a large oak just across the road from the farm house. He remained in this tree for ten or fifteen minutes & I was much interested in watching his behavior which was to some extent peculiar. He seemed to find an abundance of food on the under sides of the oak leaves and his method of obtaining it was to launch out and flutter for a moment under the leaf & then drop rather heavily to a branch beneath. Of course I have seen Red-eyes do this before but seldom so persistently & continuously. There were several Yellow-rumps near at hand but none in the oak.

As I was on my way back to the cabin at evening, following the path through Prescott's pines, an Owl hooted once very near at hand fairly startling me. His voice was that of a Barred Owl but his notes were unusual in number & arrangement; thus: - Hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo; hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo. It is also remarkable that he should have hooted only once. I waited a long time hoping he would repeat his outcry but heard only the sighing of the night wind in the pines.

Raymond Emerson tells me that a Concord man named William Gibbs found a Black Duck's nest at Goose Pond last spring. There were eight eggs which he took & brought to town. Samuel Hoar Jr. took four of them & Dr. Litchcomb the other four. All were hatched successfully under hens & the young birds are all alive & now fully grown. Raymond saw the four belonging to young Hoar only a few days ago. He also says that some boys whom he knows found a large brood of small ducklings swimming in the river at Fairhaven a year ago last spring. They called them Black Ducks.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 28

I have neglected to keep up this journal during the past ten days partly because I have had a succession of guests who have taken up most of my evenings but largely, also, because I have made few observations worth recording. The weather has been warm for the most part but on the mornings of the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> water in shallow pools & the surface of the ground, also, were frozen. Most of the Robins and Rusty Grackles and all the Chipping Sparrows have departed and I have seen no Bluebirds for several days. The flight of Yellow-rumps has also about ended. I have as yet noted no 7<sup>th</sup> of Nov. Tree Sparrows. Titmice still pipe over the pine waisters at evening and House Wrens have appeared within the past few days. Heavy flights of Crows have been passing almost daily during the past week.

When I have been in the neighborhood of Lawrence's pine woods at evening I have heard one of the Great Horned Owls. Usually he has hooted only a few times just before or a little after sunset. On the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> I noted his hooting as follows: - hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo - there being no variation in respect to the number of notes on this occasion. The next morning an hour or two before daylight (about 3 a. m. I think it was) Gilbert & I were both awakened by the low voice of an Owl of this species which was certainly very near the farm house & in both thoughts, in the big elm which shades the driveway. He hooted a dozen or fifteen times & regularly gave only five notes hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo. This is the only instance which has ever come under my observation of an Owl hooting ~~any~~ more than once or, indeed, anywhere but in deep woods.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Oct. 28

(No 2)

Under date of Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> I noted hearing in Prescott's pines, at evening, an ow, ow which seemed familiar but which I could not refer to its author. Gerald Thayer tells me that it was without question the call of a Saw-whet Owl & I believe that it was the same cry which I used to hear in autumn while camping at Mallet's Pond, Lake Umbagog and which my friends said was made by a Saw-whet.

The Thayers (Abbott & Gerald) and I heard it again last evening, indistinctly & mingled with certain other sounds wholly new to me. We had seated ourselves on the border of a wood road which leads through some dense white pines just to the northward of the Green Field and had remained there for upwards of half-an-hour abstaining from conversation & all movement but "squealing" every few minutes in the hope of attracting something of interest. Meanwhile twilight had faded into night and the glow under the trees had become so deep that we could scarce see one another's faces. Suddenly we heard a confused medley of low, slight sounds, some of them nasal and whining, others odd little chuckling or whirry noises, and among them indistinctly as I have just said and given but over the ow note which Gerald considered almost certain evidence that we were listening to a Saw-whet. Without question the creature was a bird of some kind for it was moving from place to place in the trees and over we heard it strike against a dry, resonant pine branch probably alighting on it as deftly as Owls are wont to do.

It came within about thirty yards of us and after that we heard no more of it.

Our squealing also attracted some fairly large mammals, a fox we thought which approached rather noisily on the ground & then quietly ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~went~~ <sup>went</sup> off again.

Notes of the  
Saw-whet Owl



Concord, Mass.

1902.  
Nov. 4

Brilliantly clear & deliciously warm at noonday with almost no wind.

The country is now almost completely cleared of its summer resident birds and early and mid-autumn migrants. The last Bluebirds, Robins and Rusty Blackbirds departed nearly a week ago and the Titmice have nearly all gone. I saw a Shay Chaffin on the 2nd and heard a Yellow-rump to-day. Chickadees, Kinglets, Cuckers, Crows, Jays, Goldfinches, and Partridges with an occasional Downy or Hairy Woodpecker or Flicker are now about the only birds I am likely to find in their woods during a morning's tramp. I saw the first Tree Sparrow to-day. The juncos have nearly all gone.

No one has seen any Inuit on the farm of late but at day break this morning one whistled loudly a number of times very near the house. Early morning the Crows congregated to the number of fifty or more in a corn field on the Holden farm where the stacks are still standing, & when the air is still they make a prodigious clatter. One corn has been harvested but the Jays still come to the field to search for stray kernels which the Pigeons & Squirrels have overlooked. The Gray Squirrels followed the corn into our open shed and boldly seized & made off with the ears while the men were at work "husking". The Red Squirrels have not molested the corn at all.

Two Tree Toads (Acris nivalis) were chirping freely, if somewhat hoarsely, near the house last evening.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 4

(No 2)

About 8 o'clock this morning I witnessed a remarkable phenomenon. I was on my way to Ball's Hill and had just passed Benson's house when I noticed that his pasture was almost as white as if covered with snow. For an instant I thought of hoar frost, but although there had been a heavy white frost at daybreak it had melted everywhere before I left the farm. On reaching the pasture and walking out into it I found that the closely-cropped grass was everywhere overspread with spiders webs and that this, thickly coated with dew or rather melted hoar frost, gave the field its rather winter aspect. Thus far I had been advancing nearly towards the sun but happening to turn in the opposite direction what was my astonishment and delight to perceive a rain-bow starting at my feet or rather about a yard to the left of them and extending, on the surface of the ground, entirely across the field, curving gently to the left. It differed in no way from the rainbows one sees in the heavens save that its colors were all slightly darker or more subdued and overlaid, apparently, by a steam or fog-like which was sufficiently bright to somewhat dazzle our eyes. The width of the belt of colors near my feet was about fifteen inches and this was evenly maintained quite across the field. As I moved forward towards the east the bow of course moved with me but its base was ever about three feet to the rear (i.e. westward) of where I stood. The sun all the while was shining brightly but through a very slight, steam-like mist which overspread the landscape.

A rain-bow  
on the surface  
of the ground

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 7

Clear with high N. W. wind. Early morning mild but temperature falling steadily through the day & coming very cool.

About eight o'clock this morning I was standing near the farm house when I heard a sound closely resembling that made by the wings of the Golden-eye Duck. Indeed I glanced upward as ever fully expecting to see one or more of these Ducks passing overhead. Instead my eye was instantly arrested by an immense flock of Crow Blackbirds flying at a height of at least five hundred feet and moving towards the south west. There must have been more than two hundred of them and without question they were migrating. The peculiar hurdling sound of their wings (not unlike that of a humming top) continued to reach my ears until the birds had nearly faded out of sight in the distance. Under precisely similar conditions (i.e. at nearly the same hour of an equally blustering north-west wind) on October 29<sup>th</sup> last I saw a still larger flock passing near West Bedford station towards the south west. The birds seen on that occasion were, however, less than one hundred feet above the earth and moving in a ~~very~~ compact flock whose then observed this morning were so widely spread out laterally as to form a double or triple line fully two hundred yards in length.

On several occasions within the past week when the weather has been rainy or the grass & bushes dripping with dew, I have heard a rising Plover with a hurdling instead of whirring sound & I am satisfied that this was due to the fact that its wings were soaked with moisture.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 8

Forenoon sunny but somewhat cloudy or at least hazy. Afternoon brilliantly clear with chill E. wind. A wonderful rosy afterglow last evening & this.

The first Shrike appeared this morning - in one of the elms behind the house. He will find it hard to get a living here for I never know of small birds scarce on this season. The autumnal migration is practically ended and it seems to have drained the country of about everything excepting Crows & Jays. I cannot understand what has become of the Tree Sparrows. Thus far I have seen only three or four and none more than one in any one day.

I was surprised this afternoon to find a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in company with the Chickadees among some downy young pines in the Pascott woods. It was a ♀ and the only bird of the species that I have noted this year.

About eight o'clock this morning I heard a dropping clatter of hard voices below the barn and on going past it a little way discovered a flock containing one fifty birds (I counted fifty) walking about on the ground in the cow pasture where they fairly blackened in places. The did not seem to be feeding but were apparently holding a caucus of the most noisy character.

Pheasants have been scarce of late in the woods on the farm but I started four near Ball's Hill this afternoon.

One of them ran from a thicket close to the cabin. The others four were among the downy young pines just behind the Hill where they were evidently preparing to go to roost. One bird, indeed, had already taken to the trees. I happened to see her sitting bolt upright on a pine branch about 25 feet above the ground. She allowed me to pass directly under her without attempting to fly.

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 8

At 2.15 P.M. I heard a Great Horned Owl hoot over in the dense pines on the Prescott Hill. The sun was shining brightly at the time & there was almost no wind stirring. About two hours later (4.20 P.M.) a pair of these Owls began a wonderful symphony to which I listened attentively & with the keenest enjoyment for upwards of half-an-hour when both became silent. One of them within fifty yards of me in the large dense pines on the ridge above the Glacial Hollow invariably uttered five notes; - hoo, hoo-hoo; hoo; hoo. There was regularly a short but well-marked pause after the first note, the second and third notes were given in rapid succession, a carefully-measured and impressively long interval followed the third note while the interval between the fourth and fifth notes was about half as long as that between the first and second notes and that separating the third & fourth. The bird's voice was, I think, the deepest and most sonorous that I have ever listened to from any Bubo, while the carefully-measured intervals made it tremendously impressive. The other bird was apparently about two hundred yards distant & somewhere on Davis's Hill. Its hooting was radically different. Usually it uttered eight notes (hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo) but occasionally there were nine (hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo-hoo, hoo). Its voice was lighter and more woody than that of the first bird and its notes given so rapidly that the commas which I have just used to separate them showed perhaps have been omitted. Indeed the notes followed one another in nearly if not quite as quick succession as do those of the Horned Owl. Usually this bird hooted in response to its mate but on two occasions it uttered the full series of notes just described, twice in rapid succession

Concord, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 8

(No 3)

On one of these occasions the first set of notes was begun before its mate had quite finished and in so high & querulous a key as to strongly suggest that it had suddenly lost its temper at something that the other was saying and had given vent to instant and angry contradiction or expostulation. If I am not greatly mistaken this bird's hooting was similar in respect to the number of notes and not dissimilar in quality of tone to the hooting of the hooting Owl at Baker Umbagog. Indeed I began to suspect strongly that the latter was, after all, nothing but a Bubo but this for I have not heard this Concord bird hoo.

Both of these Owls are, no doubt, the birds which inhabit and breed in Bancroft's woods. I am surprised at the limited area which they range over. Apparently it does not much exceed two hundred acres. At least I have never heard (or seen, either) of them to the eastward of the river, to the southward of Ball's Hill or to the westward of our farm house. To the northward of these thoroughfare there are few extensive woods & do not think they wander far in that direction. Certainly most of their time is spent, both by night & day, in Bancroft's woods & Percott's Pines a combined tract of dense, heavy evergreen woods (chiefly white pines) covering not more than thirty acres.



Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 30

Sunny but hazy with light west wind. Ther. 40° at sunrise.

Walter Deane visited Fresh Pond about 8.30 this morning. He found an immense body of Gulls floating on the water. Soon after his arrival they rose and separated into three flocks of about equal size two of them going off towards the ocean. A rough count of one flock gave 800 birds from which he assumes that there must have been upwards of 2400 in all. This is the largest number ever reported here.

During the half hour or so which Walter spent at the Pond a Loon was in sight most of the time. It was exceedingly active swimming rapidly for long distances, occasionally with its bill & eyes uninclosed after the manner of its kind, frequently diving and every now & then raising its body out of the water & flapping its wings. It visited Cambridge Neck and on one occasion passed close to the end of Hemlock Point where Walter was standing. Later in the afternoon he saw it again in Boat House Cove.

A Loon in  
Fresh Pond.

I reached the Pond about 9.0'clock just after Walter had left it. At this time there were upwards of 800 Gulls and about 60 Black Ducks floating on the water off Hemlock Point. Among the Black Ducks were the two adult male Red-heads which have been frequenting the Pond for the past month or more. I saw nothing of the Loon but soon after my arrival discovered a bird which Walter had missed and which has never before been noted in any of the ponds of the Cambridge Region. This was a Bermingham's Murre. It was directly opposite the end of Hemlock Point to the westward or towards the middle of the Pond and about 200 yards from shore apart from all the Ducks but not far from the inner edge of the bed of Gulls. During

Red-head  
Ducks

Bermingham's  
Murre in  
Fresh Pond



Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 30

(No. 2)

Breunich's

Murre in

Fresh Pond

The twenty minutes or more that I spent watching it it remained in nearly the same spot busily engaged, most of the time, in preening the plumage of its under parts. This was accomplished in a peculiar and most interesting manner.

Rolling over on one side until the snowy white surface of the breast and abdomen flashed in the sunlight and maintaining this position by a constant movement of the feet (and perhaps also of the submerged wing) so vigorous that the surface of the water was violently agitated and at times thrown up in jets of spray the bird would spend several successive minutes dressing the portions of its sides & flanks by passing them through its half-spread bill. To get at those on the middle of its breast and abdomen it more than once turned completely over and for the space of a minute or two floated squarely on its back with its head and bill thrown well forward and busily engaged, its widely-spread, webbed feet pawing the empty air. When it became tired it would resume an upright position and drift or paddle slowly about sometimes with its head carried low as with a swimming duck but usually with the short, thick neck stretched up nearly or quite to its full length. Through my powerful field telescope I could distinctly see that the entire upper portion of the head neck and body was deep black and I also made out clearly the shape and proportions of the bill and the characteristic lines of demarcation between the black and white on the cheeks and throat which distinguish the young of Breunich's from those of the Common Murre. Indeed the identification

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

Nov. 30

(No. 3)

of the bird was almost as satisfactory as if I had had it in my hand. It did not once die while I had it under observation but whenever not engaged in plucking itself it rarely allowed a full minute to pass without indulging in a relaxation practised by nearly all water-fowl viz. that of erecting its neck and body and raising itself nearly out of the water for an instant by rapidly vibrating its wings.

Later this afternoon Walter revisited the Pond and found the Murre swimming in the very middle of a bunch of Polack Ducks. As he was watching it it either swam or drifted against one of the Ducks where the latter dashed suddenly away from it as if alarmed or irritated by its intrusiveness.

(On the morning of December 1<sup>st</sup> Walter and I examined the entire Pond carefully with our glasses without discovering any trace of the Murre. Probably it had departed during the preceding night.)

Brunnicks  
Murre in  
Fresh Pond

Cambridge, Mass.

1902.

Dec. 1

Clear with light west wind. Ther. 30° at sunrise.

Walter & I visited Fresh Pond this morning, about 8.30, finding there upwards of 200 Gulls, 3-4 Black Ducks, 2 ad. ♂ Red-heads and a ♀ Mallard. Most of the Black Ducks, with the Mallard, were close to shore well up in Cambridge Nook but they all began swimming out and a few of them (including the Mallard) took wing when we showed ourselves above them on the crest of Newbark Point.

We looked in vain for the Murre & the Loon which was seen yesterday and we are both nearly sure that neither of them was in the Pond this morning. At evening, however, the Loon, freshly killed, was brought to me by Thomas Mahoney, a young fisherman with a frank, honest face who assured me that he had killed the bird with a 22 cal. rifle in Perry's Clay pit just to the westward of Hill's Crossing in Belmont. He further asserted that it had been frequenting Fresh Pond for a week or more (this statement is confirmed, we hear, by Richard Smith) and that he has frequently seen it flying to & fro between the Pond and the clay pit, when he claims to have shot it late this afternoon. Despite his prepossessing appearance & manner I suspected that a part of his story is false & that the bird was really slain in Fresh Pond early this morning. Certainly it had been fired at with a charge of shot for besides the small wound in the head which Mahoney asserted had been made by his bullet there were fresh, bleeding shot wounds in both wings as well as in the body. That the bird was

Loon shot  
in Cambridge  
(or Belmont)

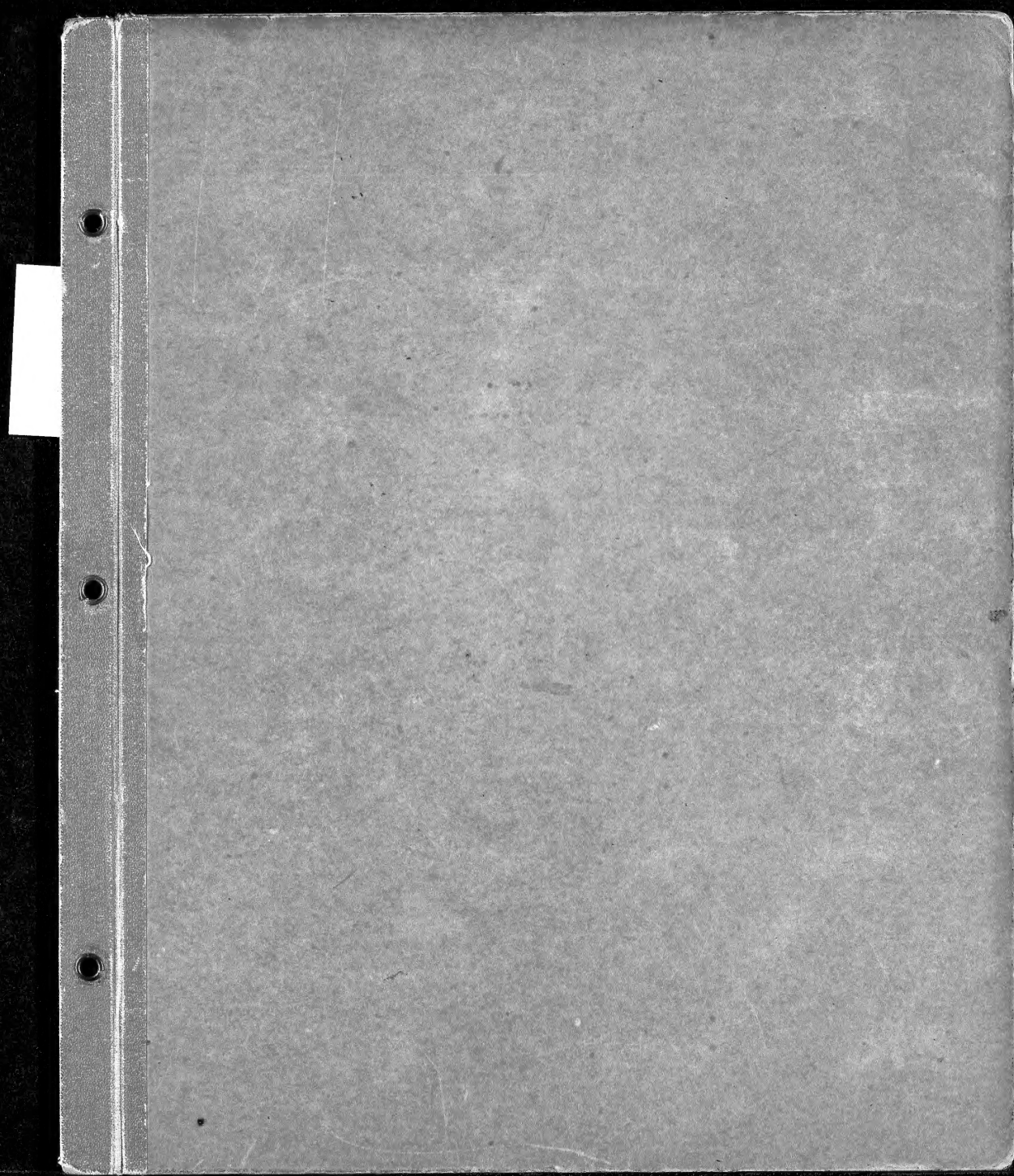
Cambridge, Mass.

1902

Dec. 1

(no 2.)

taken either in Fresh Pond or the clay pit at  
sometime during to-day is, however, nearly certain  
for it reached me in perfectly fresh condition and  
Walter says it looks exactly like the Loon he saw  
yesterday while Mahony is not the kind of young  
man who would be likely to indulge in distant  
shooting trips. It would not be difficult for such a  
fellow to fire a single shot at Fresh Pond just after  
daybreak and to escape with his bird before the  
deforestation had attracted attention. Had he done this  
he would of course have been likely to think it  
imprudent to admit the fact. On the other hand  
it is not impossible that he really killed the  
Loon in the clay pit (which he says booms with fish)  
and with a rifle for the shot wounds may have  
been inflicted by someone else although that seems  
more unlikely. I bought the bird of him for 75¢  
and have sent it to Angell & Cook of Providence  
for mounting.



Journal

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June -